

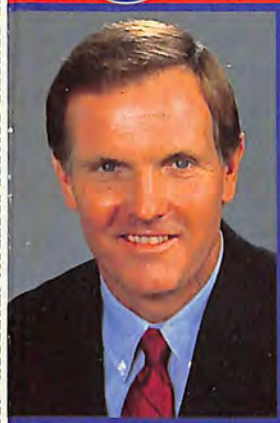


AMERICA'S
SPORTS
YEARBOOKS

BIG 12, BIG TEN, WAC FULL-PAGE TEAM PREVIEWS

**MIDWEST
EDITION**

BOB GRIESE'S COLLEGE FOOTBALL YEARBOOK • 1996



BOB GRIESE'S College Football

1996 YEARBOOK

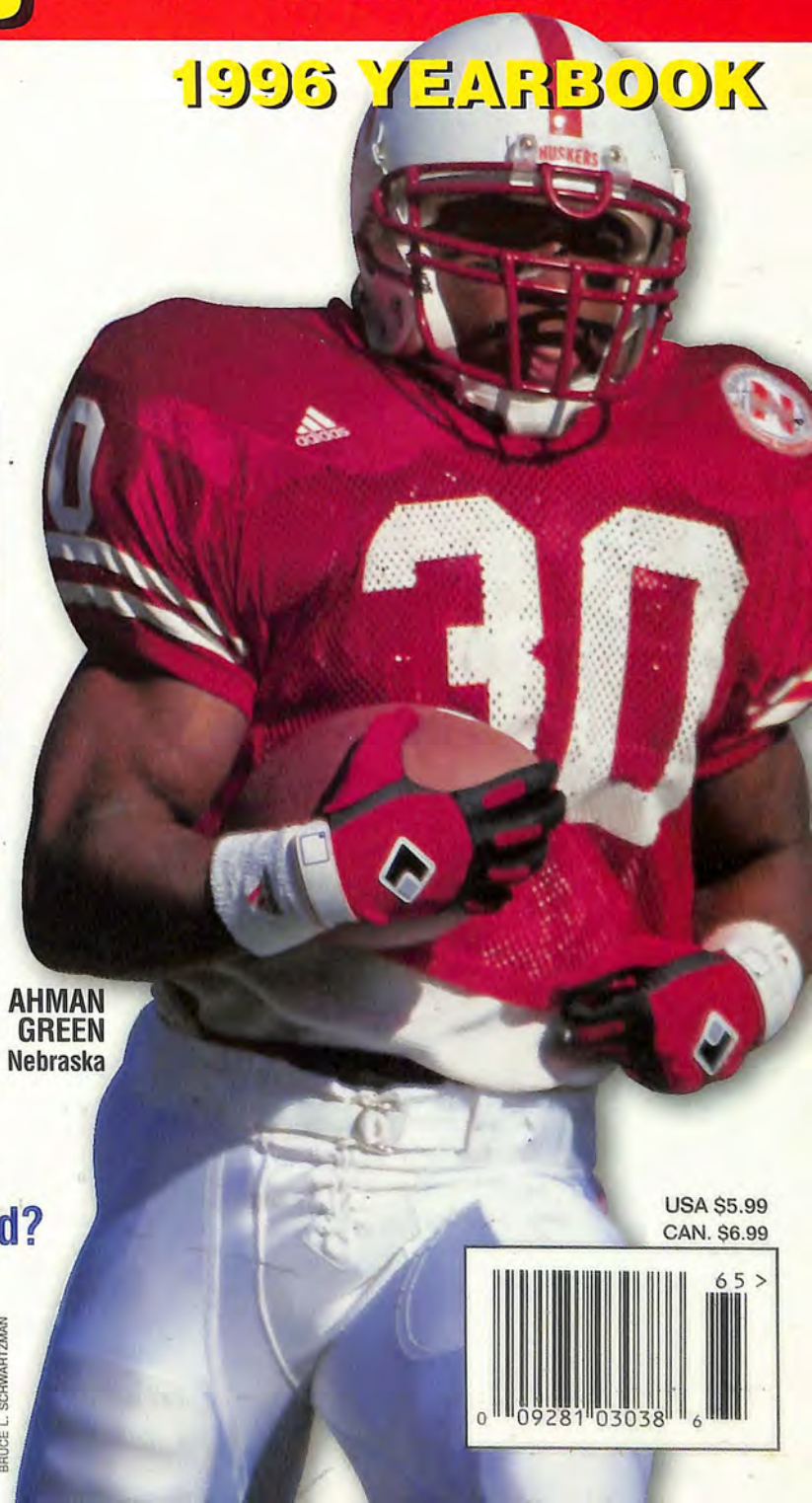
**Preseason Top 40
All-America Teams
Conference Previews**



KOY DETMER
Colorado



JUNE HENLEY
Kansas



**AHMAN
GREEN**
Nebraska

- Rating the Hottest Preps
- Exclusive Rankings of all 111 Div. I Teams

FEATURES:

- Q&A: Nebraska's Tom Osborne
- Can Today's Offenses Be Stopped?
- Kansas State's Chris Canty

PLUS:

- Division I-AA, II, III, NAIA, JUCO Previews
- Complete Div. I Schedules

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

USA \$5.99
CAN. \$6.99



THE ALL-STAR LINEUP

ALL THE
EXCITEMENT
OF COACHING
AN NFL TEAM.
NONE OF THAT
LOCKER ROOM
AROMA.

No one gets you closer to the game than ESPN. Now we're offering you a coaching position in the NFL, with Fantasy Football from ESPN SportsZone.

You'll start by picking your team through a live, online draft. Then take advantage of unlimited free transactions, including trades and free agency, right through the season.

Add to this current injury reports. Same-day roster changes. And game results up the very next day. All the information you need to manage your team: stats, expert analysis and more is available 24 hours a day on SportsZone, the leading sports site on the Internet.

But that's not all. Form your own league - or let us help you form one. Challenge thousands of other players from around the world. Negotiate trades, share insights or just chat about the latest league news.

Rookie or seasoned pro, ESPN Fantasy Football brings you all the excitement of following every game really closely. But not that close.

Sign up today at espn.sportszone.com. Or e-mail us at sportsteam@starwave.com for more information.

Fantasy football @ **SPORTSZONE**
A SERVICE OF STARWAVE AND ESPN

BOB GRIESE'S College Football Yearbook

CONTENTS

FEATURES

4 THE BIG PICTURE

Bob Griese offers his thoughts and predictions on the upcoming season.

By Bob Griese with Gary Long

16 THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Today's offenses are lighting up scoreboards.

By Michael Bradley

23 THE BEST DEFENSE?

As Nebraska and other teams have discovered, the best defense is an aggressive one.

By Michael Bradley

26 PEY-DIRT

Ever since Peyton Manning arrived at Tennessee, Vols fans have been dreaming of a national title. *By Curry Kirkpatrick*

31 Q&A: BOB GRIESE WITH TOM OSBORNE

36 KEEPING PACE

Ohio State is glad to have star lineman Orlando Pace back ... at least for one more year.

By Bruce Hooley

38 IN NO RUSH

The NFL must wait for college football's premier pass rusher, Virginia Tech's Cornell Brown. *By David Seigerman*

PREVIEWING THE '96 SEASON

10 BOB GRIESE'S TOP 40

An in-depth look at Bob's rankings of the nation's 40 best teams.

PLUS: Rating the Rest: 41 to 111—a preseason look at where the rest of the I-A teams rank.

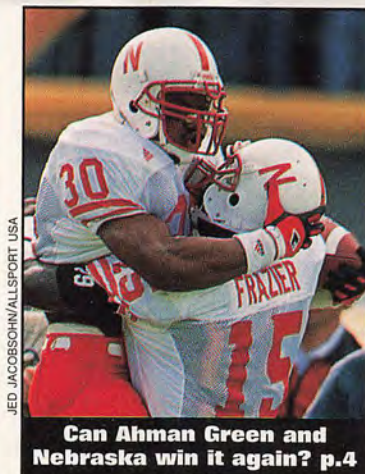
145 DIVISION I-AA ALL-AMERICA TEAM, TOP 25

162 DIVISION II ALL-AMERICA TEAM, TOP 25

164 DIVISION III ALL-AMERICA TEAM, TOP 25

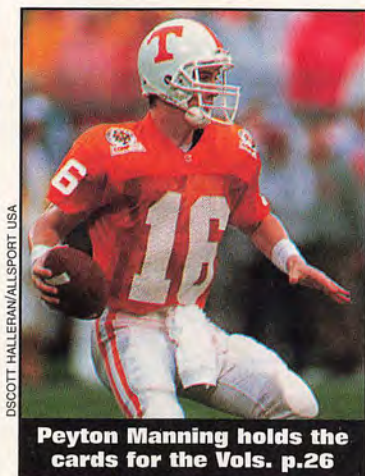
166 NAIA ALL-AMERICA TEAM, TOP 25

168 JUNIOR COLLEGE ALL-AMERICA TEAM, TOP 25



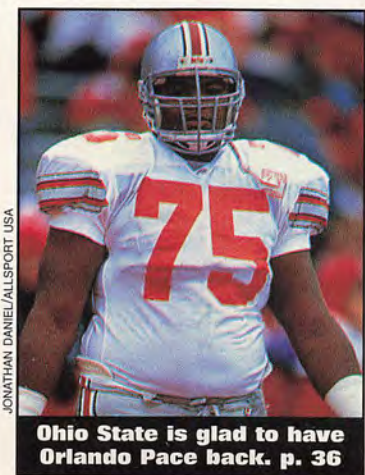
JED JACOBSON/ALLSPORT USA

Can Ahman Green and Nebraska win it again? p.4



DSCOTT HALLERMAN/ALLSPORT USA

Peyton Manning holds the cards for the Vols. p.26



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT USA

Ohio State is glad to have Orlando Pace back. p. 36

RECRUITING

170 COURAGEOUS CAT

Tim Couch became an instant hero in his home state just by signing with Kentucky.

By Mike Fields

PLUS: Top 50 H.S. seniors, Top 10 recruiting classes. *By Bill Buchalter*

174 FINAL 1995 STATISTICS/1996 TV SCHEDULES

DIVISION I-A CONFERENCE PREVIEWS

42 ATLANTIC COAST

52 BIG EAST

62 BIG TEN

74 BIG 12

88 PACIFIC-10

100 SOUTHEASTERN

114 WESTERN ATHLETIC

131 INDEPENDENTS

138 BIG WEST

140 CONFERENCE USA

142 MID-AMERICAN

DIVISION I-AA CONFERENCE PREVIEWS

146 BIG SKY

147 GATEWAY

148 IVY LEAGUE

149 METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC

150 MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC

151 NORTHEAST

152 OHIO VALLEY

153 PATRIOT LEAGUE

154 PIONEER LEAGUE

155 SOUTHERN

156 SOUTHLAND

157 SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC

158 YANKEE

160 I-AA INDEPENDENTS



America's Sports Yearbooks

Publishers of:

- Dick Vitale's College Basketball Yearbook
- Joe Theismann's Pro Football Yearbook
- Joe Montana's Pro Football Yearbook
- Nolan Ryan's Pro Baseball Yearbook
- Bob Griese's College Football Yearbook
- Dr. J's Pro Basketball Yearbook

All team schedules and two-deep rosters are subject to change.

SPORTS NEWS HOTLINE



REPORTS ON:

- Daily Schedules
- Point Spread
- Scores
- Wrap-ups



**PLUS:
Special Event
15-Minute
Updates!**



**1-900-988-0161
Ext. 105**

\$2.00 per min., Avg. call 2 mins.
Average cost per call \$4.00
Touch Tone phone req.
Under 18 get parent's permission
Strauss Communications, Carmel, CA
(408) 625-1910

INDEX OF DIV. I-A TEAMS

Air Force 115	Navy 134
Akron 144	Nebraska 81
Alabama 108	Nevada 138
Alabama-Birm. 136	UNLV 129
Arizona 89	New Mexico 126
Arizona State 90	New Mexico State .. 139
Arkansas 109	North Carolina 48
Arkansas State ... 136	N.C. State 49
Army 133	North Texas 139
Auburn 110	NE Louisiana 137
Ball State 142	Northern Illinois ... 137
Baylor 82	Northwestern 69
Boise State 139	Notre Dame 132
Boston College ... 53	Ohio 144
Bowling Green ... 143	Ohio State 70
Brigham Young ... 123	Oklahoma 83
California 91	Oklahoma State 84
UCLA 96	Oregon 92
Central Florida ... 136	Oregon State 93
Central Michigan .. 143	Penn State 71
Cincinnati 141	Pittsburgh 55
Clemson 43	Purdue 72
Colorado 76	Rice 117
Colorado State ... 116	Rutgers 56
Duke 44	San Diego State 127
East Carolina 135	San Jose State 128
Eastern Michigan .. 142	South Carolina 104
Florida 101	USC 94
Florida State 45	SMU 118
Fresno State 124	Southern Miss. 140
Georgia 102	SW Louisiana 137
Georgia Tech 46	Stanford 95
Hawaii 125	Syracuse 57
Houston 141	Temple 58
Idaho 139	Tennessee 105
Illinois 63	Texas 85
Indiana 64	Texas A&M 86
Iowa 65	TCU 119
Iowa State 77	UTEP 121
Kansas 78	Texas Tech 87
Kansas State 79	Toledo 142
Kent 144	Tulane 141
Kentucky 103	Tulsa 120
Louisiana State ... 111	Utah 130
Louisiana Tech ... 136	Utah State 138
Louisville 140	Vanderbilt 106
Maryland 47	Virginia 50
Memphis 141	Virginia Tech 59
Miami (Fla.) 54	Wake Forest 51
Miami (Ohio) 142	Washington 97
Michigan 66	Washington State ... 98
Michigan State ... 67	Western Michigan .. 143
Minnesota 68	West Virginia 60
Mississippi 112	Wisconsin 73
Mississippi State .. 113	Wyoming 122
Missouri 80	

BOB GRIESE'S 1996 College Football YEARBOOK

EDITORIAL

NORB GARRETT	Editor
BOB GRIESE	Associate Publisher
BILL DOHERTY	Managing Editor
DAVID ALLEN	Senior Copy Editor
BILL HOWARD	Copy Editor
JOHN ROACH	Contributing Editor
DAVID SEIGERMAN	Contributing Editor
JONATHAN TESSER	Contributing Editor
DAVID SCOTT	Contributing Editor
DEBRA L. DeSANTIS	Editorial Assistant
MARC OLIVER	Assistant Copy Editor
CHAD A. SAFRAN	Assistant Copy Editor
DAVE SIMINOFF	Assistant Copy Editor

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Route 22 East
One Salem Square, Suite 201 East
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889
908/534-5390 FAX 908/534-5308

ART/PRODUCTION

DAVID W. BRENNER	Art Director
JOE ANDERSON	Contributing Art Director
CLAIRE WALSH	Production Manager

ADMINISTRATION

MATT BROWN	President
JOHN J. PAK	Controller
CHARLES KIM	Circulation Manager
DOMINIC MUSTELLO	Newsstand Sales Manager
MIDALE T. TOMAS	Administrative Assistant

ADVERTISING

JAMES F. McNALLY	Publisher
PAUL ABRAMSON	Associate Publisher
ROBERT F. BOHN	Director of Marketing and Research

East

DAVID B. COOPER	Senior National Accounts Manager
DAN DRESCHER	National Accounts Manager
THOMAS J. RICH	Classified Advertising Manager
15 Penn Plaza, Suite 101	New York, NY 10001
212/290-8300	FAX 212/290-1580

Midwest

DAVID J. LUTZKE	National Accounts Manager
400 Bluegrass Drive	Wheaton, IL 60187
708/682-5800	FAX 708/682-4818

Detroit

CHRIS MEYERS	National Accounts Manager
Laine Meyers Inc.	3645 Crooks Road, Troy, MI 48084
810/643-8447	FAX 810/643-0861

West

STEVE ROUSSEAU	National Accounts Manager
361 San Leon	Irvine, CA 92714
714/833-7767	FAX 714/833-8116

BOB GRIESE'S COLLEGE FOOTBALL YEARBOOK is published annually. © 1996, C.S. Communications, L.P. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without prior written permission is prohibited. The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of Bob Griese or C.S. Communications, L.P. Manufactured and printed in the USA.

A Publication of:
CS Communications ABC APPLICATION
sports group SUBMITTED

STEVE SPURRIER



"The Strength® System is a great asset for any football program working on overall Team SPEED, QUICKNESS, & ATHLETIC ABILITY. We're always looking for ways of increasing team speed, and with the Strength® System we have found it. I'm so impressed with the Strength® Training System we're putting them on our entire team."

Steve Spurrier

Steve Spurrier,
Heisman Trophy Winner,
Head Coach,
University of Florida

"Before I used the Strength® Shoe I ran a 5 sec 40 yd dash. Now I run a 4.6 in only 3 months of using the Shoe and my vertical jump increased 6 inches."

Chris Marcinak, Texas

How the Strength® Ultimate Leg Training System Works

In regular shoes, 70% of the body weight rests on the heels. In the Strength® Shoes the heel is eliminated, causing the calf muscles to support 100% of the body weight. This overload works the calf muscles in addition to the Achilles tendon. Upon impact, the calf muscles are exercised with a force equal to 6 times the body weight. For example when a 150 lb. athlete would work his/her calf muscles with a force of 900 lbs. As the force of impact occurs, the heel dips causing the muscles to stretch. The Strength® System builds the calf muscles and stretches the Achilles tendon - making any athlete more explosive.

Each System includes:

- One pair of Black or White Court Shoes
- Pull out Step-by-Step Training Cards
- Basic Training Video



The Strength® Shoe
has been proven to increase athletes
speed in the 40 by 2/10 sec.
and jumping ability from 5" to 9".

**JUMP HIGHER
RUN FASTER
GUARANTEED**

THE ORIGINAL



Ask about our
advanced
training videos

**Don't be fooled by
cheap strap-on
imitations. If it doesn't
say Strength® it's not
the original.**

ATTENTION:
TRAINERS &
STRENGTH COACHES;
ASK US ABOUT OUR
POSITIVE STUDY RESULTS.



White
Court Shoe



Black
Court Shoe

CALL NOW 1-800-451-JUMP
SEE US ON THE WEB: <http://www.strength-systems.com>
CANADA RESIDENTS CALL 1-800-977-7333

☐ YES! I would like to run faster & jump higher.

Please send me the complete Strength® Ultimate Leg Training System with its: 3-stage training manual (beginning, intermediate, and advanced); a step-by-step video training tape; and the Strength Shoes, the center of the system. Thank you. **SATISFACTION GUARANTEED**

NAME: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
(NO P.O. BOXES PLEASE)
CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____
AREA CODE & PHONE #: _____
All shipments forwarded by Air Freight
☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ DISCOVER
CARD #: _____ EXP. DATE: _____
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____
Prices subject to change without notice

☐ MEN ☐ WOMEN
☐ SIZE: _____
☐ COURT (WHITE OR BLACK)

\$119.95 Each system plus
HANDLING CHARGES:
Continental USA \$7.95 - each pair
2nd Day Air Delivery
Other locations, please call.

1-800-451-5867 or
Internationally (504) 468-5425

LOUISIANA RESIDENTS
ADD 4% TAX.

TOTAL \$ _____

SEND CHECK or
MONEY ORDER ONLY (No Cash)
TO:
STRENGTH® FOOTWEAR, INC.
P.O. BOX 73190
METairie, LA 70033-3190

Two pressing questions arise about the new Big 12, the conference formed by Big Eight members and Southwest Conference defectors Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Baylor:

Just how strong can one league be?

Could Nebraska's quest for a third straight national title fall victim to Big 12 might?

The answer to the first rests in the final 1995 *Associated Press* poll. Nebraska was joined in the Top 10 by a trio of Big Eight rivals—Colorado (No. 5), Kansas State (No. 7) and Kansas (No. 9)—all 10-2 and all bowl winners. Texas (No. 14), Texas A&M (No. 15) and Texas Tech (No. 23) also went bowling and all finished with Top-25 rankings. Simple math: That's seven out of 12 in the Top 25. That's imposing.

But so are the Huskers. Coach Tom Osborne's offense for all seasons, with a bulldozer mentality but speed and skill to burn, may need a few games to jell. Quarterback Tommie Frazier, tailback Lawrence Phillips, center Aaron Graham and four other offensive starters are gone. But under Osborne, the best reserves aren't really reserves. They play almost as many minutes as starters. That's especially true of offensive linemen, who maintain Nebraska's standard of excellence year after year.

This season, Nebraska returns three starters on the line, none of whom stand shorter than 6-foot-1 or weigh fewer than 285 pounds.

Also, while heir-apparent Scott Frost isn't likely to be another Frazier, who else has one? Frost, who transferred from Stanford back to the home-state Huskers after coach Bill Walsh resigned, joined Notre Dame's Ron Powlus and Florida State's Thad Busby as the three most coveted high school quarterbacks in 1993.

Truly tipping the scales toward a Nebraska three-peat, though, is an absolutely hellacious defense. Ends Jared Tomich and Grant Wistrom and line-backer Terrell Farley are wrecking balls who strike before you can brace.

QUIET PASSAGE INTO HISTORY

Rest in Peace, SWC.

The Southwest Conference limped into college football's archives last year. The league of Doak Walker and Earl Campbell, of Darrell Royal and Frank Broyles,

of Sammy Baugh and John David Crow and Davey O'Brien and so many others fell victim to a regional television market, changing times and its members' recruiting sins.

Former Baylor coach Grant Teaff attended the Texas A&M-Texas finale wearing coat and tie because "my daddy always told me to wear a tie to the funeral for a friend."

LET'S HEAR IT FOR OVERTIME

The NCAA Football Rules Committee, chaired by Georgia Athletic Director Vince Dooley, cast a welcome vote this off-season by requiring a tie-breaker for all games, not just bowls. Overtime is here.

A number of coaches aren't wild about the system instituted. Here's how it works: In the overtime period, each team gets an offensive possession beginning on the opponent's 25-yard line. If neither team scores during its possession, the overtime period continues until the score is no longer tied.

The tie-breaker system has been used since 1981 in Division I-AA, II and III championship games, and made its first appearance on the I-A level last season during the postseason. But only one bowl game, the Las Vegas Bowl, needed the overtime period. In that landmark game, Toledo defeated Nevada, 40-37, by outscoring the Wolf Pack 7-3 in the extra session. Nevada opened the overtime scoring with a 22-yard field goal on its first possession, but the Rockets answered with Wasean Tait's 2-yard TD run for the victory.

Those opposed to the tie-breaker system believe it puts too much emphasis on the place-kicker. Many would prefer the extra sudden-death period the NFL uses. Several factors favor the NCAA's approach.

Ordinarily, it should not exact as heavy a physical toll on players in their late teens and early 20s.

It assures both teams the same number of chances to score.

And most of all, it should be incredibly exciting for the fans.

SPEED UP THE GAME

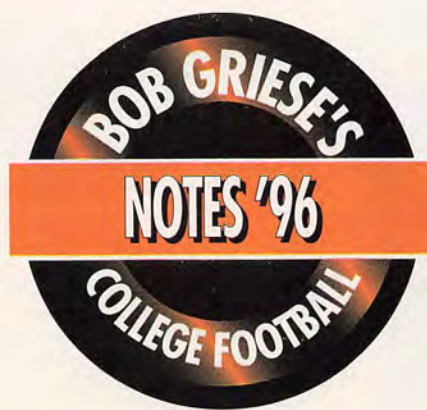
The one detractor of playing overtime games is that it already adds to what is—in most cases—a three-and-a-half-hour game. No one will feel cheated if the NCAA adopts measures the NFL uses to make the game a three-hour entertainment package.

By college rules, the clock stops for every first down until the ball is spotted for the next play. It also stops after every play that carries out of bounds and after each penalty and does not start ticking again until the ball is snapped.

THE BIG PICTURE

With Seven Bowl Teams, the Big 12 Figures to be Very Large in '96

By BOB GRIESE with Gary Long



Just how much the addition of the four SWC teams, including Byron Hanspard's Red Raiders, affects Nebraska's three-peat hopes remains to be seen.



Brandon Mitchell, Texas A&M



Terrell Farley, Nebraska



James Brown, Texas

Tighten up the time frame. Keep the clock running on first downs. Stop it when a receiver or back is chased out of bounds or when a penalty flag flies. But restart the clock the moment the ball is spotted for play. For the purposes of clock management by coaches, revert to the current college rules the final five minutes of each half.

Blowouts will still happen. But those teams scoring in the 70s most likely will fall into the less hurtful 50s because the games will be shorter.

TWO STRIKES AGAINST THE POLLS

Vociferous critics of the polls, normally synonymous with purists who will settle for nothing less than a college football playoff system, feasted on this morsel after the bowls last year.

Two coaches, safe in their anonymity, dropped previously unbeaten Florida to 11th and 13th on their *USA Today*/CNN ballots after the Gators' 62-24 Fiesta Bowl thrashing by undisputed, unchallenged champion Nebraska.

Florida coach Steve Spurrier, as quick to needle rivals as he is to call a pass play, obviously has made a few enemies with his intensity and style both on and off the field. But there's no excuse for the two coaches who apparently allowed personalities to infringe on a duty and used the voting privilege to grind an ax. They alone caused the Gators' demotion from second to third in the final *USA Today*/CNN poll, behind a Tennessee team the Gators swamped, 62-37.

Memo to *USA Today*: Put names to the

BOB ROSATO

JED JACOBSON/ALLSPORT USA

TOMASSO DEROSA

BOB'S PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

FIRST TEAM Offense

POS.	PLAYER	YR.	HT./WT.	SCHOOL
QB	Peyton Manning Jr.	Sr.	6-5/218	Tennessee
RB	Warrick Dunn	Sr.	5-9/178	Florida St.
RB	Troy Davis	Jr.	5-8/182	Iowa St.
RB	Jay Graham	Sr.	6-0/206	Tennessee
WR	Rae Carruth	Sr.	6-0/180	Colorado
WR	Mike Adams	Sr.	6-1/185	Texas
TE	David LaFleur	Sr.	6-7/279	LSU
OL	Orlando Pace	Jr.	6-6/320	Ohio St.
OL	Juan Roque	Sr.	6-8/319	Arizona St.
OL	Chris Naeole	Sr.	6-4/280	Colorado
OL	Dan Neil	Sr.	6-2/285	Texas
OL	Rod Payne	Sr.	6-4/288	Michigan
AP	Ike Hilliard	Jr.	5-11/182	Florida

FIRST TEAM Defense

POS.	PLAYER	YR.	HT./WT.	SCHOOL
DL	Jared Tomich	Sr.	6-2/260	Nebraska
DL	Cornell Brown	Sr.	6-2/246	Va. Tech
DL	Darrell Russell Jr.	Sr.	6-4/290	USC
DL	B. Mitchell	Sr.	6-4/275	Texas A&M
LB	Pat Fitzgerald	Sr.	6-2/233	N'western
LB	Terrell Farley	Sr.	6-1/205	Nebraska
LB	Matt Russell	Sr.	6-2/235	Colorado
DB	Shawn Springs	Jr.	6-0/185	Ohio St.
DB	B. Westbrook	Sr.	6-0/197	Texas
DB	Donovan Greer	Sr.	5-10/178	Texas A&M
DB	Chris Canty	Jr.	5-10/190	Kansas St.

FIRST TEAM Specialists

POS.	PLAYER	YR.	HT./WT.	SCHOOL
PK	Michael Reeder	Jr.	6-0/165	TCU
P	Brad Maynard	Sr.	6-1/175	Ball St.

SECOND TEAM Offense

POS.	PLAYER	YR.	HT./WT.	SCHOOL
QB	Danny Wuerffel	Sr.	6-2/208	Florida
RB	George Jones	Sr.	5-9/210	S. Diego St.
RB	Leon Johnson	Sr.	6-1/210	N. Carolina
RB	Marc Edwards	Sr.	6-0/237	Notre Dame
WR	Andre Cooper	Sr.	6-2/194	Florida St.
WR	Marcus Harris	Sr.	6-2/209	Wyoming
TE	Chad Lewis	Sr.	6-6/235	BYU
OL	Chris Dishman	Sr.	6-3/310	Nebraska
OL	Ryan Tucker	Sr.	6-6/290	TCU
OL	Calvin Collins	Sr.	6-3/290	Texas A&M
OL	Aaron Taylor	Jr.	6-1/305	Nebraska
OL	Jeremy Akers	Sr.	6-6/300	Notre Dame
AP	Derrick Mason	Sr.	5-11/190	Michigan St.

SECOND TEAM Defense

POS.	PLAYER	YR.	HT./WT.	SCHOOL
DL	Reinard Wilson	Sr.	6-2/245	Florida St.
DL	Renaldo Wynn	Sr.	6-3/275	Notre Dame
DL	Mike Vrabel	Sr.	6-4/255	Ohio St.
DL	Grant Wistrom	Jr.	6-3/250	Nebraska
LB	Jarrett Irons	Sr.	6-1/231	Michigan
LB	Mark Smith	Sr.	6-3/244	Arkansas
LB	Ink Aleaga	Sr.	6-2/225	Washington
DB	Ronde Barber	Jr.	5-10/189	Virginia
DB	Kevin Abrams	Sr.	5-9/159	Syracuse
DB	L. Wright	Sr.	6-1/201	Florida
DB	Taje Allen	Sr.	5-11/180	Texas

SECOND TEAM Specialists

POS.	PLAYER	YR.	HT./WT.	SCHOOL
PK	Rafael Garcia	Sr.	5-10/194	Virginia
P	Chad Kessler	Jr.	6-1/189	LSU

voters as *The Associated Press* does with media members in its final poll. Hold the coaches accountable.

POINT-A-MINUTE FOOTBALL

Doug Graber, in what became the final year of his Rutgers coaching career, lit into Penn State coach Joe Paterno with ESPN microphones picking up the heated exchange over the Nittany Lions' final touchdown—a pass—in a 59-34 rout of the Scarlet Knights.

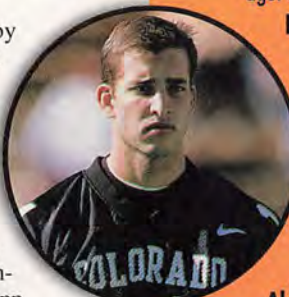
Florida State coach Bobby Bowden felt obliged to send Duke's Fred Goldsmith a note of apology. Not for scoring 70 points but for having first-team quarterback Danny Kanell on the field for the last score.

Always, there seem to be extenuating circumstances to running up scores. A reserve Penn State quarterback improvised on his target, throwing deep instead of short for the first down. Kanell played only 10 snaps in the final 40 minutes after directing the Seminoles to 41 points in the first 20 minutes. But the subject of running up the score always heats to a boil.

One problem is that college offenses have the ordinary, average defense overmatched (see story, page 16). The best attacks are pyrotechnic. Why?

College coaches are more influenced today by the pros. Fewer teams run the option, the veer, the wishbone, all of which consumed large chunks of time while an inferior opponent was being ground down to dust. Today, most teams leave the locker room with the throttle wide open.

Coaches take the best players and plug



Colorado's
Koy Detmer
is back.

FORGET ME NOT

Before injuring his knee in the fifth game of the season against Texas A&M, Colorado's Koy Detmer was the nation's leading passer and a Heisman Trophy candidate. He's back this season, as are a number of outstanding players whose seasons were cut short a year ago. Some examples:

Koy Detmer, QB, Colorado:

Suffered a complete tear of the right ACL in the first quarter vs. Texas A&M in Week 5; missed final six games plus Cotton Bowl. Stats before injury: 65-of-95, 1,101 yards, 8 TDs, 2 INTs.

Alex Smith, RB, Indiana: Missed opener with hamstring injury and four more games after suffering three cracked ribs in Week 4 vs. Northwest-

ern. Stats before injury: 166 carries, 769 yards, 3 TDs.

Robert Edwards, RB, Georgia: Missed final nine games of the season plus Peach Bowl after fracturing foot against Tennessee in Week 2.

Stats before injury: 45 carries, 325 yards, 6 TDs in a shade over six quarters.

Melvin Dansby, DE, Notre Dame: Missed all of 1995 season after injuring neck in spring scrimmage; underwent surgery to fuse disks in neck. 1994 stats: 18 tackles, 1.5 sacks.

Shawn Walters, RB, USC: Suspended for contact with an agent. Missed eight games plus Rose Bowl and must sit out first three games this season. Stats before suspension: 25 carries, 168 yards, 3 TDs.

them into offenses designed to exceed the speed limit. An example: With just five days remaining in spring drills last season, former Georgia coach Ray Goff switched junior cornerback Robert Edwards to running back. All Edwards did was rush for 325 yards and six touchdowns before suffering a year-ending foot injury against Tennessee seven quarters into the season.

Quarterbacks are being coached better than in the past. For example: Walt Harris left the New York Jets to join John Cooper's Ohio State staff and helped mold Bobby Hoying into a more accurate passer and the leader of an explosive Buckeyes offense that also featured Heisman Trophy winning tailback Eddie George and big-play wide receiver Terry Glenn.



Tennessee's Peyton Manning
directs our first-team offense.

DAVID L. GREENE

JED JACOBSON/ALLSPORT USA

If you're serious about football...

FOOTBALL NEWS



There's MORE NEWS in FOOTBALL NEWS!

Since 1939, **Football News** has provided the most comprehensive pro and college football coverage available anywhere. And now there's even more! More insightful features, more notes, more stats, more expert predictions. Even color photos of the NFL's hottest cheerleaders, and regular columns by top NFL and college experts. Published weekly during the season and four times during the offseason, you get 20 big issues a year. All of this makes **Football News** your total football package.

**TIMELY
DELIVERY
VIA OUR FREE
RAPID DELIVERY
PROGRAM**

YES! Enter my subscription to **Football News** for the term indicated below and send me my **FREE 1996 FN Fans Action Guide**. I have enclosed payment with my order (or charged my credit card).

- ☐ 1 year (20 issues) - \$36.95
- ☐ 2 years (40 issues) - \$61.95
- ☐ 3 years (60 issues) - \$86.95

Fla. residents add 6% sales tax

- ☐ Check here if renewal
- ☐ Send my subscription first class mail in an envelope. I've enclosed an additional \$30.00 per year.

Check one:

- ☐ I enclose payment with order
- ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DIS
- Card No. _____
- Exp. Date _____
- Phone No. _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

Send to: **FOOTBALL NEWS • P.O. Box 526600, Miami, FL 33152-6600**

NOTE: Canadian & Mexican subscribers please add \$6.00 per year & pay in U.S. funds

FREE GIFT!

Subscribe to **Football News** before Sept. 15, 1996 and you'll receive absolutely **FREE, FN's 1996 College & NFL Fans Action Guide**, a quick "go-to" handbook for the knowledgeable football fan. Packed full of facts, figures and trends, the **Fans Action Guide** will keep you on top of the action for the entire football season with:

- Schedules for all NFL & Major College Teams
- TV Schedules • College & NFL Team Records
- "Against the Spread" • Super Bowl & National Championship Odds • Final '95 College & NFL Stats • NFL Draft Choices • Preseason All-Americans • Stats, Predictions & Much More!

Yours FREE if you order now!



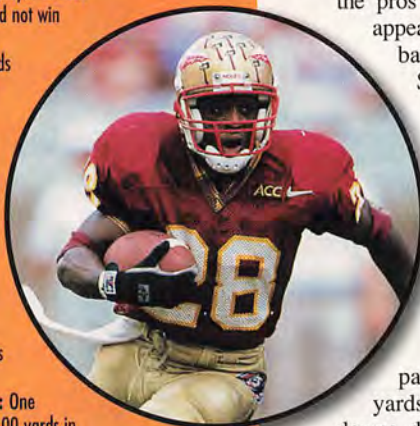
**CREDIT CARD ORDERS CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-334-4005
or FAX YOUR ORDER: (305) 477-1346**

AND, THE NOMINEES ARE ...

(Bob Griese's Favorites for This Year's Postseason Awards)

HEISMAN TROPHY (Outstanding College Football Player)

1. **Warrick Dunn**, RB, Florida State: Seminoles' first two-time 1,000-yard rusher averages 7.2 yards per carry.
2. **Peyton Manning**, QB, Tennessee: Pro scouts already project him as the top pick in the NFL draft whenever he decides to come out.
3. **Troy Davis**, RB, Iowa State: First player to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season and not win the Heisman.
4. **Danny Wuerffel**, QB, Florida: Needs 17 TD passes to pass David Klingler (91) into second place on all-time NCAA list.
5. **Koy Detmer**, QB, Colorado: Connected on 68.4 percent of his passes and averaged 16.9 yards per completion before season-ending knee injury.
6. **Cornell Brown**, DE, Virginia Tech: Hokie defensive end (14 sacks in '95) has Big East QBs shakin' all about.
7. **Brad Otton**, QB, USC: Becomes full-time starter in '96 after sharing duties with Kyle Wacholtz for most of '95.
8. **Darnell Autry**, RB, Northwestern: One of only two Division I-A backs to run for 100 yards in every game last season. Finished 5th for '95 Heisman.
9. **George Jones**, RB, San Diego State: Played final 3½ games with broken jaw and still finished with 1,842 rushing yards and 23 TDs.
10. **Ron Powlus**, QB, Notre Dame: Ranks second to Rick Mirer on Notre Dame's career list for TD passes with 31.



Heisman favorite Warrick Dunn

OUTLAND/LOMBARDI (Outstanding Interior Lineman/Lineman)

- | POS./PLAYER | SCHOOL | '95 STATS |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. OT Orlando Pace | Ohio State | Big Ten Offensive Lineman of the Year |
| 2. DE Jared Tomich | Nebraska | 10 sacks, 12 tackles for a loss |
| 3. DE Cornell Brown | Virginia Tech | 103 tackles, 14 sacks |

BUTKUS AWARD (Outstanding Linebacker)

- | PLAYER | SCHOOL | '95 STATS |
|-------------------|--------------|---|
| 1. Terrell Farley | Nebraska | 62 tackles, 5 sacks, 3 INTs |
| 2. Pat Fitzgerald | Northwestern | 130 tackles, 3 sacks, 2 forced fumbles |
| 3. Matt Russell | Colorado | 119 tackles, 4 sacks, 12 tackles for a loss |

JIM THORPE AWARD (Outstanding Defensive Back)

- | PLAYER | SCHOOL | '95 STATS |
|---------------------|--------------|--|
| 1. Shawn Springs | Ohio State | 50 tackles, 5 INTs, 2 pass. def. |
| 2. Bryant Westbrook | Texas | 62 tackles, 9 pass. def., 3 forced fumbles |
| 3. Chris Canty | Kansas State | 43 tackles, 8 INTs, 17 pass. def. |

DAVEY O'BRIEN (Outstanding Quarterback)

- | PLAYER | SCHOOL | '95 STATS |
|-------------------|-----------|---|
| 1. Peyton Manning | Tennessee | 244-of-388, 2,954 yds., 22 TDs, 4 INTs |
| 2. Danny Wuerffel | Florida | 210-of-325, 3,266 yds., 35 TDs, 10 INTs |
| 3. Koy Detmer | Colorado | 65-of-95, 1,101 yds., 8 TDs, 2 INTs |

FRED BILETNIKOFF (Outstanding Wide Receiver)

- | PLAYER | SCHOOL | '95 STATS |
|-----------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Rae Carruth | Colorado | 53 catches, 1,008 yds., 9 TDs |
| 2. Mike Adams | Texas | 53 catches, 876 yds., 3 TDs |
| 3. Ike Hilliard | Florida | 57 catches, 1,008 yds., 15 TDs |

HEISMAN: MANNING VS. WUERFFEL?

Mark this date on the calendar: Saturday, September 21. That's when Florida visits Knoxville to play Tennessee.

Not only is this likely to be a showdown for Southeastern Conference supremacy, but it

could also tip scales in the 1996 Heisman Trophy contest. For starters, that shapes up as Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning vs. Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel.

In passing technique and offensive scheme, they have only one common trait: They win. Manning is bigger and appears to have a quicker arm, more to the pros' liking. Wuerffel appears to shove the ball sometimes.

Spurrier is trying to correct that, but in reading defenses, reacting to Spurrier's system and finding the hit receiver, Wuerffel is masterful.

Manning passed for 2,954 yards and 22 touchdowns during the regular season. Wuerffel, in a pass-first scheme, exceeded those numbers with 3,266 yards and an SEC-record 35 TDs through the air. He also shattered the existing NCAA mark for passing efficiency (178.4 rating).

Their personal showdown will be like an early primary in a large state in an election year.

DIPLOMA FIRST, THEN NFL

Warrick Dunn took a page from Tyrone Wheatley's book when he called a press conference last January not to announce his availability for this year's NFL Draft, but to say he would stay at Florida State for his senior season.

Tailbacks like Phillips at Nebraska and Karim Abdul-Jabbar at UCLA left a year early. So did Michigan's Tim Biakabutuka and Kentucky's Moe Williams. Among wide receivers, Ohio State's Glenn and Penn State's Freddie Scott bypassed their senior years of eligibility for instant NFL rewards. Each had his own motivation. For some, the decision will prove sound. For others, the move will be premature.

Dunn has been pushed into his rare perception and maturity by tragedy. His mother, a Baton Rouge, La., policewoman and single parent, was shot and killed months before Dunn graduated from high school. He has become father figure as well as older brother to five siblings, who live with their grandmother.

BOB GRIESE'S ALL-NAME TEAM

POS.	PLAYER	SCHOOL
LB	Ink Aleaga	Washington
WR	Magic Benton	Miami (Fla.)
DT	Epenesa Epenesa	Iowa
CB	DeReal Finklin	Vanderbilt
CB	Javelin Guidry	UCLA
RB	Boogie Johnson	Oklahoma State
QB	Zebbie Lethridge	Texas Tech
LB	Marcellus Mostella	Auburn
C	Harvey Pennypacker	Syracuse
RB	Rashon Spikes	North Carolina State
DE	Jabbar Threats	Michigan State

Dunn affirmed that thoughts of his mother entered his decision.

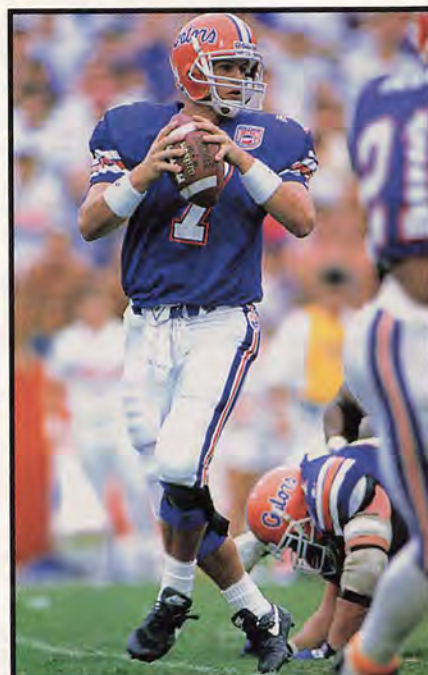
"She would have supported anything I decided," he said. "She always did. But I think she probably would have wanted me to get my degree. Maybe my brothers and sisters can learn something from this."

Yes, he said, an NFL bonus and salary is an enticement. But it can wait. "I can't get material things I want now," he said. "But so what. I haven't been able to get things I wanted for 21 years. What's one more?"

OLD COACHES DON'T FADE AWAY

Comedian George Burns wanted to be on stage when he celebrated his 100th birthday. It didn't quite work out like he planned, but he did reach 100 before passing away. His death saddened a nation but left us all with memories that can only inspire laughter.

Coaches today seem to want to follow Burns' example. Paterno is 69 and wooing



It'll be an old-fashioned shootout when Danny Wuerffel leads Florida into Knoxville, Sept. 21.



Bobby Bowden shows no signs of slowing down at age 66.

high school teens for the glory of Penn State. Bobby Bowden is 66 and just signed a five-year contract that takes him into the 21st century at Florida State, where his teams have won 10 or more games and celebrated a post-bowls ranking of No. 4 or higher an unprecedented nine consecutive seasons. Iowa's Hayden Fry and LaVell Edwards at Brigham Young also carry on, both comfortably into their 60s.

COUCH POTATO'S OFFICIAL GUIDE

(A Week-By-Week Look at This Year's Best Games)

Aug. 25	Penn State vs. USC (Kickoff Classic)
Sept. 7	UCLA at Tennessee
	North Carolina at Syracuse
Sept. 14	Michigan at Colorado
	Washington at BYU
Sept. 21	Florida at Tennessee
	Notre Dame at Texas
Sept. 28	Ohio State at Notre Dame
	Colorado at Texas A&M
Oct. 5	Penn State at Ohio State
	Michigan at Northwestern
Oct. 12	Florida State at Miami (Fla.)
	Tennessee at Georgia
Oct. 19	Colorado at Kansas
	USC at Arizona State
Oct. 26	Virginia at Florida State
	Texas at Colorado
Nov. 2	Northwestern at Penn State
	Nebraska at Oklahoma
Nov. 9	Notre Dame at Boston College
	Kansas State at Kansas
Nov. 16	Penn State at Michigan
	Virginia Tech at Miami (Fla.)
Nov. 23	Michigan at Ohio State
	Alabama vs. Auburn (at Birmingham)
Nov. 29	Colorado at Nebraska
	Texas A&M at Texas
Nov. 30	Florida at Florida State
	Miami (Fla.) at Syracuse

Bowden said he enters every recruit's home ready to combat any concerns that he will be at FSU for the player's full career.

"But it's amazing," he said last January in the heat of recruiting wars. "I don't think anybody's brought up age but me."

EXIT WITH CLASS

The injury siege that undermined Goff's final season with the luckless Bulldogs defied reason and belief. Goff could keep neither a quarterback nor a tailback healthy. In the final analysis, that—and heavy pressure from 'Dawgs alumni and boosters—got him fired.

But Goff, at his farewell press conference, eased the tension and exhibited class and a sense of humor with his opening remark.

"I'm running for the United States Senate seat vacated by Sam Nunn," he joked, "and I appreciate y'all coming."

A STATE IN SHOCK

The first analogy that comes to mind would be if General Stonewall Jackson had split with Confederate strategist Robert E. Lee and signed on to conduct raids back into the South for the North's General Ulysses S. Grant.

Bill Oliver, "Brother Bill" to admiring rival Spurrier at Florida, rocked the football-frenzied state of Alabama last winter when he left Gene Stallings' Crimson Tide staff. Worse, he signed on to become Terry Bowden's defensive mastermind at Auburn, replacing the deposed Wayne Hall. Assistant coaches, especially coordinators who essentially rule as head coaches of their units, are uniformly unheralded. Oliver is one of the best around.

NORTHWESTERN JOY RIDE

Coach Gary Barnett and his Northwestern Wildcats invited all of college football on a joy ride last fall that even their 41-32 Rose Bowl loss to USC could not spoil.

The Purple played in Pasadena, as Barnett vowed.

Only once before in the school's 112 years had a Northwestern team played in a postseason game—the 1949 Rose Bowl. The last time a Northwestern team had won more than five games in a season, Richard Nixon was president. The last time the Wildcats had won as many as eight, Harry Truman was in office.

This 10-2 team struck the season's blow for the perennially downtrodden. It was great for college football. And it was a tribute to Barnett.

Paterno offered high praise after a 21-10 loss to Northwestern. He said the Wildcats—especially a superb textbook defense built around All-America linebacker Pat Fitzgerald—"play the game the way coaches like to see it played."

Paterno went on to say, "You're not looking at a lot of All Americans. But they know where they are, they know where their teammates are and they know where the ball is."

When the cheering subsided, the breath of fresh air persisted as Barnett rebuffed suitors to stay at Northwestern. He was never going to be more in demand than he was last year.

READY-FOR-PRIME-TIME PLAYERS

(If You Haven't Heard These Names Before, You Certainly Will This Season)

POS./PLAYER	SCHOOL
QB Thad Busby	Florida State
QB Scott Frost	Nebraska
QB Cade McNown	UCLA
QB Ryan Clement	Miami (Fla.)
RB Curtis Enis	Penn State
RB Kevin Faulk	LSU
WR Randy Moss	Florida State
DL Melvin Dansby	Notre Dame
DB Hudhaifa Ismaeli	Northwestern
DB Daylon McCutcheon	USC



Don't be surprised if Darnell Autry and Northwestern stick around awhile.

JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT USA

UCLA courted him. Georgia wanted him. But Barnett was true to his school.

People ask who will be this season's surprise team, the Northwestern of 1996. It may still be Northwestern. The Wildcats won't be dismissed like they were in the 1995 preseason, when many saw them finishing 11th in the Big Ten. But with tailback Darnell Autry the catalyst on offense and Fitzgerald the hub on defense, Barnett's team may yet again exceed expectations, if not so spectacularly.

Gary Long is a staff writer with the Miami (Fla.) Herald.

SUGAR-CUBED

Nebraska Will Look to Three-Peat Come Jan. 2 in New Orleans

Three-Peat? How About Four? Those enthralled by Nebraska's back-to-back national championships should note that coach Tom Osborne's Huskers might well be bidding for a fourth consecutive crown this year if not for one wrong turn of the football. Only an errant 45-yard field-goal attempt by Byron Bennett on the final snap in the 1994 Orange Bowl allowed Florida State to escape with an 18-16 victory and the 1993 national title.

Had Bennett's kick split the uprights, we'd be talking about the first three-peat champion in the history of college football. That talk will have to wait until next year.

Yes, three-peat after

me: The Huskers will win another national title next Jan. 2 in New Orleans. It won't be a Big Easy road. Not like last season, when Tommie Frazier, Lawrence Phillips and Co. swamped the Gators, 62-24, in the Fiesta Bowl and ran roughshod over their opponents by an average of more than 38 points per game. But with seven starters returning on defense, including three All-America selections (linebacker Terrell Farley and ends Jared Tomich and Grant Wistrom), and another massive offensive line, the Huskers are still the one to beat.

BOB GRIESE'S

TOP 40

SUGAR PLUMS

Five Teams Likely to Contend
For the National Title

1. NEBRASKA
2. FLORIDA STATE
3. FLORIDA
4. TENNESSEE
5. NOTRE DAME

NEBRASKA: There's no replacing Frazier, who was 33-3 as Nebraska's starting quarterback, but Stanford transfer Scott Frost won't be asked to do much: Just get

the ball to Ahman Green. Green's 1,086 rushing yards last season were the most ever by a Nebraska freshman as the Huskers won a 12th NCAA rushing title. That will become 13 this season as three-fifths of the Huskers' mammoth offensive line returns—tackles Eric Anderson (6-foot-4, 300 pounds) and Chris Dishman (6-3, 310) and guard Aaron Taylor (6-1, 305). The Husker Blackshirts return en force this season after ranking second nationally against the run (78.4 ypg.) in 1995 and intercepting 20 passes, five of which were returned for touchdowns.

FLORIDA STATE: It's a given every year: The 'Noles will finish in the Top Four (they've done it an unprecedented nine years in a row), contend for a national title and win their bowl game (11 consecutive years and counting). Senior running back Warrick Dunn may be the early favorite to win the Heisman, and if Bobby Bowden comes up with someone to throw to 1,000-yard receivers E.G. Green and Andre Cooper—likely junior Thad Busby—look out. In order to taste Sugar, how-

**Ahman
Green leads
Nebraska's
blitzkrieg.**

ever, they must beat the 'Canes in Miami.

FLORIDA: The good news first. Florida returns the nation's No. 1-rated passer, its top three running backs and 1,000-yard receiver Ike Hilliard, not to mention head coach Steve Spurrier, who turned down a lucrative deal to coach the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The bad news: Unlike a year ago, the Gators don't have Tennessee and Florida State in The Swamp this year.

TENNESSEE: Barring a second-half collapse in Gainesville last September, the Vols would have been undefeated and playing for the national title. But they've got the Gators in Knoxville this season, and with quarterback Peyton Manning leading an explosive offense that includes 1,000-yard rusher Jay Graham and 1,000-yard receiver Joey Kent, Tennessee should waltz through its schedule. Replacing four starters on the offensive line is key, however.

NOTRE DAME: If the Irish do manage to win a national title in Ron Powlus' tenure as quarterback, it will be because of the 1996 version of the Four Horsemen: Fullback Marc Edwards and tailbacks Autry Denson, Randy Kinder and Robert Farmer. Only Farmer, who missed five games with a knee injury before coming off the bench to rush for a career-high 93 yards against Florida State in the Orange Bowl, rushed for fewer than 695 yards last season. The big question for the Irish is this: Who will Powlus—back after breaking his non-throwing arm late last season—throw to now that Derrick Mayes, his only target from a year ago, is gone?



Freshman sensation Donovan McNabb has transformed Syracuse into the Big East favorite.

OTHER SWEETS

10 Teams With an Outside Chance At the National Title

6. COLORADO
7. SYRACUSE
8. OHIO STATE
9. TEXAS
10. MIAMI (FLA.)
11. USC
12. KANSAS
13. MICHIGAN
14. VIRGINIA TECH
15. ALABAMA

COLORADO: Koy Detmer was the nation's No. 1 passer when he blew out his knee against Texas A&M, but John Hessler was very good at leading the Buffaloes to a 10-2 record and a No. 5 ranking. Colorado will be just as good this season with both quarterbacks returning, not to mention its top two rushers and Fred Biletnikoff

Award candidate Rae Carruth at wide receiver.

SYRACUSE: Donovan McNabb made it to the national championship game as a member of the basketball team. Now, he'd like nothing better than to quarterback the Orangemen's football team to similar heights come Jan. 2. The nation's third-rated passer last season—as a freshman—McNabb has the tools and the Orange the schedule—Miami (Fla.) and Virginia Tech are in the Carrier Dome—to pull it off.

OHIO STATE: Bobby Hoying, Eddie George and Terry Glenn are gone, but 10 of 11 defensive starters are back, including pass-rushing bookends Mike Vrabel and Matt Finkes. Plus, there's giant All-America offensive tackle Orlando Pace, who also plays in goal-line situations on defense.

TEXAS: Sure, the Longhorns played with an imposter for all but one game last season, but there was nothing deceiving about their 10 wins. And they're certainly capable of winning that many again this season with the likes of QB James Brown, WR Mike Adams and RBs Shon Mitchell and Ricky Williams returning. Williams (990 yards) broke Earl Campbell's freshman rushing record last season.

MIAMI (FLA.): Sugar 'Canes? Maybe. After starting last season 1-3 with the prospect of NCAA sanctions



Marc Edwards and the Irish have the makings of a national title contender.

BOB GRIESE'S TOP 40

- 1 NEBRASKA
- 2 FLORIDA STATE
- 3 FLORIDA
- 4 TENNESSEE
- 5 NOTRE DAME
- 6 COLORADO
- 7 SYRACUSE
- 8 OHIO STATE
- 9 TEXAS
- 10 MIAMI (FLA.)
- 11 USC
- 12 KANSAS
- 13 MICHIGAN
- 14 VIRGINIA TECH
- 15 ALABAMA
- 16 PENN STATE
- 17 TEXAS A&M
- 18 NORTHWESTERN
- 19 ARIZONA STATE
- 20 TEXAS TECH
- 21 WASHINGTON
- 22 AUBURN
- 23 CLEMSON
- 24 NORTH CAROLINA
- 25 LSU
- 26 KANSAS STATE
- 27 VIRGINIA
- 28 IOWA
- 29 BYU
- 30 ARKANSAS
- 31 EAST CAROLINA
- 32 MICHIGAN STATE
- 33 BAYLOR
- 34 GEORGIA TECH
- 35 OREGON
- 36 ILLINOIS
- 37 SAN DIEGO STATE
- 38 UCLA
- 39 AIR FORCE
- 40 WISCONSIN



Zebbie Lethridge's talents will keep Texas Tech in the heat of the bowl picture.

on the horizon, the 'Canes could have folded and become a tropical depression, but instead picked up force and finished with seven consecutive wins. With the exception of standout linebacker Ray Lewis (early entry for NFL draft) and wide receiver Jammi German (torn ACL), nearly everyone returns for second-year coach Butch Davis.

USC: The Trojans lost their main horse—wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson—but return 1,000-yard rusher Delon Washington, quarterback Brad Otton and All-America candidate Darrell Russell at defensive tackle. The secondary, led by super soph Daylon McCutcheon and senior Sammy Knight, may be the nation's best. USC is the favorite to repeat in the Pac-10 again.

KANSAS: The Jayhawks return 17 starters, including 10 on defense. But the biggest returnee is head coach Glen Mason, who took the head coaching job at Georgia only to change his mind and return to Kansas. That's huge for KU, which will have a hard time matching last year's 10 wins in the first year of the Big 12.

MICHIGAN: Tim Biakabutuka would have been a sure candidate for the Heisman, and Michigan a popular pick in the Big Ten, had he returned. But the Wolverines welcome back quarterback Scott Dreisbach—4-0 as a starter last season (including a dramatic fourth-quarter comeback against Virginia) before injuring his thumb—and nine defensive starters, led by LB Jarrett Irons.

VIRGINIA TECH: Everything's Hokie dokie in Blacksburg, Va., thanks to the return of pass-rushing force Cornell Brown. He may be as good as Tech alum Bruce Smith. The Hokies will have it tough, though, with Syracuse and Miami (Fla.) on the road. Keep an eye on junior RB Ken Oxendine.

ALABAMA: For the first time in his seven-year tenure as Alabama's head coach, Gene Stallings returns more than 15 starters, including the entire offensive line and running back Dennis Riddle (969 rushing yards). But, as usual, the Tide will continue to roll behind its defense, which returns nine starters from the nation's ninth-best unit.

GOING BOWLING

These Teams Won't Win the Title, But They'll be Bowling Come December and January

16. PENN STATE
17. TEXAS A&M
18. NORTHWESTERN
19. ARIZONA STATE
20. TEXAS TECH
21. WASHINGTON
22. AUBURN
23. CLEMSON
24. N. CAROLINA
25. LSU

PENN STATE: When sophomore RB Curtis Enis is not carrying the Lions, the defense—with nine returning starters, including the entire secondary—will.

TEXAS A&M: Leeland McElroy's early departure to the NFL should take some of the electricity out of the offense, but the defense, led by two Mitchells—Brandon and Keith (not related)—is one of the nation's finest.

NORTHWESTERN: Cinderella will have a hard time getting back to the Rose Bowl, despite the return of Heisman candidate Darnell Autry and last year's Defensive Player of the Year, Pat Fitzgerald.

ARIZONA STATE: Jake Plummer may be the best quarterback in the nation west of Knoxville, Tenn. He's got a terrific target in wideout Keith Poole.

TEXAS TECH: Now that the Red Raiders are in the Big 12, you'll be hearing a lot about these two sensational juniors—QB Zebbie Lethridge and RB Byron Hanspard.

WASHINGTON: Linebacker Ink Aleaga deserves plenty of ink, as do the Huskies, who will challenge for a Rose Bowl berth this season behind RB Rashaan Shehee.

AUBURN: After losing only one game the previous two seasons, the Tigers were expected to be better than 8-4. That sounds about right for 1996.

CLEMSON: Tigers will be on the prowl in the ACC with backfield tandem of Raymond Priestner and Emory Smith—Emmitt's younger brother.

NORTH CAROLINA: Turnovers left Carolina feeling blue last season, but the Heels' defense (sixth in the nation) left opponents feeling black and blue.

LSU: Arkansas was last year's surprise in the SEC West. This year it could be the Tigers, who have a prowling defense and a game-breaking running back in Kevin Faulk.



Offensive machine Beau Morgan keys Air Force's attack.

OTHERS TO WATCH

These Schools Will be in Position for a Bowl Berth This Season

26. KANSAS STATE
27. VIRGINIA
28. IOWA
29. BYU
30. ARKANSAS
31. EAST CAROLINA
32. MICHIGAN ST.
33. BAYLOR
34. GEORGIA TECH
35. OREGON
36. ILLINOIS
37. SAN DIEGO ST.
38. UCLA
39. AIR FORCE
40. WISCONSIN

KANSAS STATE: In the final regular-season game vs. Colorado last season, All-America cornerback Chris Canty had two INTs, returned a block punt for a TD and broke up six passes.

VIRGINIA: The brother combination of Tiki and Ronde Barber is a sheer delight. The Cavaliers are the only team to have beaten Florida State in ACC play.

IOWA: Sedrick Shaw may not be the best running back in the state, but he's the best in the Big Ten.

BYU: Cougars can

only hope QB Steve Sarkisian picks up where he left off last season—31-of-34 passing, 399 yards against Fresno State.

ARKANSAS: If Madre Hill (1,387 rushing yards) and Oscar Malone can both make it back from ACL injuries, the Hogs have a chance to repeat in the SEC West.

EAST CAROLINA: The Pirates were undefeated against the Big East a year ago, going 3-0 against Syracuse, West Virginia and Temple.

MICHIGAN STATE: The Spartans can expect many happy returns from dynamite senior Derrick Mason, who returned two kickoffs and one punt for touchdowns last season.

BAYLOR: The Bears spent much of last season No. 1 in the nation in total defense before finishing at No. 5. Junior RB Jerod Douglas (1,594 all-purpose yards) isn't bad, either.

GEORGIA TECH: The Yellow Jackets defense will be buzzing this season, as will converted DB C.J. Williams (1,138 yards rushing in '95).

OREGON: The Ducks will have to waddle along without all-purpose star Ricky Whittle, but QB Tony Graziani (8th nationally in total offense) can keep Oregon afloat.

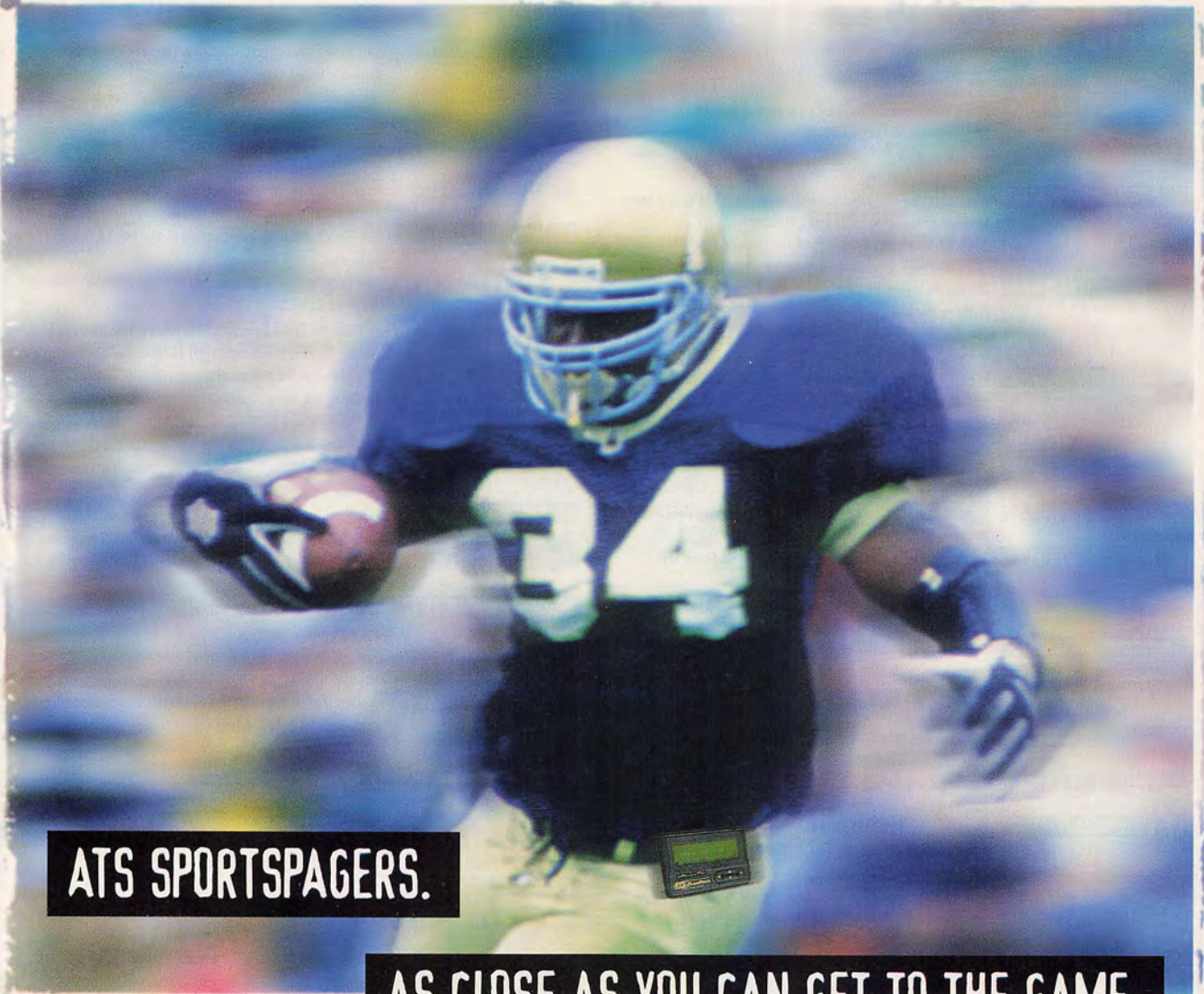
ILLINOIS: Kevin Hardy and Simeon Rice went No. 2 and No. 3, respectively, in this year's NFL Draft, but it was senior LB Dennis Stallings who led the Illini in tackles with 130 last season.

SAN DIEGO STATE: There's no keeping up with George Jones (1,842 rushing yards) or the rest of the Aztecs' high-powered offense, which boasts a 3,000-yard passer (Billy Blanton) and two 1,000-yard receivers (Will Blackwell and Az Hakim).

UCLA: Karim Abdul-Jabbar took his hook shot. ... sorry, quick feet, to the NFL, leaving the Bruins without much of a shot at a Rose Bowl berth. Just don't tell USC, which has lost five straight to its cross-town rival.

AIR FORCE: They're supposed to fly. So what gives? Only Nebraska ran for more yards last season. QB Beau Morgan (1,285 yards) leads the ground assault.

WISCONSIN: The Badgers return 18 starters, including DE Tarek Saleh (12 sacks) and LB Pete Monty (137 tackles). ☺



ATS SPORTSPAGERS.

AS CLOSE AS YOU CAN GET TO THE GAME.

RECEIVE THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO WIN — UPDATED EVERY 3-5 MINUTES

Receive Scores From Every Sporting Event
 Actual Lines Direct From The Las Vegas Sportbooks
 Continuous Weather Conditions • Continuous Injury Reports
 Doubles As A Personal Pager • Works Nationwide • Top Sports Stories
Receive All This As It Happens

The ATS Sportspager
 Now Only **\$50⁰⁰***

Call For A Free Brochure
1-800-772-1287

Try It First For Free

If in 10 days you are not completely satisfied with your ATS Sportspager, send it back for a **full refund**, no questions asked.



CALL NOW FOR TWO FREE ISSUES Of The #1 Sports Investment

Journal, The ATS Weekly Review

Packed with stats, trends, schedules, in-depth analysis, scouting reports, injury reports, logs, power ratings, plus the exclusive ATS advance selections.

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-772-1287



* Monthly/activation fee required.

ATS^{INC}
Consultants
PLAY TO WINSM

THE REST: 41-111

RK./SCHOOL (1995 record)

41. GEORGIA (6-6)

42. PURDUE (4-6-1)

43. UTAH (7-4)

44. WEST VIRGINIA (5-6)

45. STANFORD (7-4-1)

46. TOLEDO (11-0-1)

47. MARYLAND (6-5)

48. SOUTHERN MISS (6-5)

49. ARIZONA (6-5)

50. MIAMI (Ohio) (8-2-1)

51. CALIFORNIA (3-8)

52. BOSTON COLLEGE (4-8)

53. FRESNO STATE (5-7)

54. NEVADA (9-3)

55. S. CAROLINA (4-6-1)

56. COLORADO ST. (8-4)

57. LOUISVILLE (7-4)

58. ARMY (5-5-1)

59. OKLAHOMA ST. (4-8)

60. WYOMING (6-5)

61. OKLAHOMA (5-5-1)

62. INDIANA (2-9)

63. PITTSBURGH (2-9)

64. BALL STATE (7-4)

65. NAVY (5-6)

66. MISSISSIPPI ST. (3-8)

67. N.C. STATE (3-8)

68. CINCINNATI (6-5)

69. MISSISSIPPI (6-5)

70. TCU (6-5)

71. WASHINGTON ST. (3-8)

72. IOWA STATE (3-8)

73. KENTUCKY (4-7)

74. MINNESOTA (3-8)

75. TULSA (4-7)

THE BOTTOM LINE

Hines Ward, college football's version of Kordell Stewart, had 100-yard rushing, receiving and passing games last season. Life after Mike Alstott (1,436 rushing yards in '95) begins for the Boilermakers.

Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala (834 rushing yds., 9 TDs) is a load to bring down (6-1, 272) and pronounce.

'Eers have league's best pair of receivers in David Saunders (38 recs., 682 yds.) and Rahsaan Vanterpool (34, 606).

The Cardinal returns its top four RBs from '95, including Anthony Bookman (872 yds.) and Mike Mitchell (593).

The Rockets were one of only two unbeaten I-A teams last season, Nebraska being the other.

With 18 starters returning, the Terps could find themselves in their first bowl game since 1990.

Junior QB Heath Graham should challenge all of Brett Favre's school passing records by the time he graduates.

The offense must pick it up now that the last remnants of the "Desert Swarm" defense are gone.

Eight starters, including LB Dee Osborne (126 tackles), return to the nation's No. 2 defense (251.3 ypg.).

Steve Mariucci, who tutored NFL MVP Brett Favre last season, returns to coach the Bears.

Could be the start of a sibling rivalry at quarterback between junior Matt and freshman Tim Hasselbeck.

Senior strong safety Omar Stoutmire led the WAC in tackles a year ago with 198.

The Wolf Pack must replace the nation's leading passer (Mike Maxwell) and receiver (Alex Van Dyke).

WR Zola Davis broke Robert Brooks' freshman records for catches (58), yards (911) and TDs (nine) last season.

The Rams try to make it three straight Holiday Bowl appearances with a very young defense.

Tim Couch isn't the only Kentucky prep star playing QB in his home state. Keep an eye on Cardinals frosh Chris Redman.

Call them the Cardiac Cadets: Six of their 11 games last season were decided in the final minute, four on the last play.

The tailback tandem of David Thompson (1,509 yds.) and Andre Richardson may be the best in the country.

Senior WR Marcus Harris has caught 149 passes for 2,854 yards and 25 TDs over the past two seasons.

Sooners fans are longing for the old days and hope former Barry Switzer assistant John Blake can get them there—soon.

Season rests on health of RB Alex Smith (769 yards in six games last season), who was dynamite as a freshman in '94.

The return of RB Billy West (1,358 yds. in '94) gives Pitt a formidable backfield with sophomore Demetrius Harris.

Punter Brad Maynard (43.7-yard average) is chasing Ray Guy's NCAA career mark (44.7).

CB Sean Andrews, a WR as a freshman, intercepted eight passes last season as a junior, tied for the most in the nation.

Former Arkansas defensive coordinator Joe Lee Dunn has much work to do.

Last year's collapse ended a streak of seven consecutive bowl appearances for the Wolfpack.

The Bearcats return the nation's top kickoff returner in Robert Tate (34.3-yard avg.).

Alabama transfer Kris Mangum led all SEC tight ends in receiving (36 catches) last season.

Kicker Michael Reeder has not missed a field-goal attempt inside 39 yards (26 of 26) in his career.

No one played Nebraska tougher (a 35-21 loss in Lincoln) last season.

Junior Troy Davis became the first RB in Div. I-A history to rush for 2,000 yards on a losing team.

The "Tim Couch Watch" begins Aug. 31 in Lexington against Louisville.

QB Cory Sauter will be going to the Well often this year—WRs Ryan Thelwell (58 recs.) and Tutu Atwell (41 recs.).

The Golden Hurricane have to do better than last year's 140.4 ypg. through the air in the pass-happy WAC.

76. VANDERBILT (2-9)

77. DUKE (3-8)

78. E. MICHIGAN (6-5)

79. MEMPHIS (3-8)

80. NEW MEXICO (4-7)

81. MISSOURI (3-8)

82. RICE (2-8-1)

83. TEMPLE (1-10)

84. SMU (1-10)

85. HOUSTON (2-9)

86. RUTGERS (4-7)

87. SW LOUISIANA (6-5)

88. UTAH STATE (4-7)

89. OREGON STATE (1-10)

90. TULANE (2-9)

91. WAKE FOREST (1-10)

92. BOWLING GREEN (5-6)

93. IDAHO (6-5)

94. HAWAII (4-8)

95. LA. TECH (5-6)

96. W. MICHIGAN (7-4)

97. UTEP (2-10)

98. C. MICHIGAN (4-7)

99. CENT. FLORIDA (6-5)

100. SAN JOSE ST. (3-8)

101. BOISE STATE (7-4)

102. ARKANSAS ST. (6-5)

103. AKRON (2-9)

104. N. ILLINOIS (3-8)

105. OHIO (2-8-1)

106. NE LOUISIANA (2-9)

107. KENT (1-9-1)

108. UNLV (2-9)

109. NORTH TEXAS (2-9)

110. NEW MEXICO ST. (4-7)

111. UAB (5-6)

Can Commodores build off a strong regular-season finale (a 12-7 loss at No. 3 Tennessee) from a year ago?

The Dukies will have a devil of a time replacing Spence Fischer's 9,021 career passing yards.

The Eagles return the MAC's top passer in senior Charlie Batch (3,177 yds., 21 TDs).

Shaun Sands, nephew of Cowboys' WR Michael Irvin, could give the Tigers' dormant running game a boost.

QB Donald Sellers completed 62 percent of his passes last season and was responsible for 82 percent of the Lobos' scoring.

The Tigers' schedule includes five of the top 14 teams from a year ago.

Owls punter Tucker Phillips had at least one punt of 50 or more yards in 10 of 11 games last season.

At least the Owls head into this season with one Big East victory (a 29-27 win over Pitt) to their credit.

The return of QB Ramon Flanigan, the SWC's total offense leader in '94, should vastly improve the Mustangs.

The Cougars will be Chuck-in' the ball this season with senior Chuck Clements (2,641 passing yds., 15 TDs in '95).

Bill Walsh protégé Terry Shea brings the West Coast offense to New Jersey.

WR Brandon Stokley set NCAA single-season freshman records for receptions (75) and yards (1,121) last season.

The NCAA gave the Aggies a big boost by granting RB Abu Wilson (1,476 yds., 15 TDs) a medical hardship year.

Army transfer Akili King should run wild in the Beavers' option attack.

The Green Wave has a wave of returning starters (19) to rebuild with.

Juniors Darrell Braswell and Thabiti Davis combined for 87 receptions last season despite just two starts between them.

Three of the Falcons' first five games are at Alabama and MAC favorites Toledo and Miami (Ohio).

Idaho doesn't figure to be a small potato in the Big West with UCLA transfer Ryan Fien at QB.

QB Glenn Freitas twice tied a school record last season with five TDs vs. UTEP and UNLV.

The M&M connection of QB Jason Martin (2,606 yds. passing) and WR Chad Mackey (90 recs., 1,255 yds.) returns. It's a rebuilding year in Kalamazoo. Only nine starters, including All-MAC WR Tony Knox, return.

The Miners have to dig in more on defense after allowing 40.5 ypg. last season, worst in the nation.

The Chippewas have had 27 1,000-yard rushers since 1954. Last year, it was freshman Silas Massey (1,089).

Don't confuse the Golden Knights with Florida's three other I-A schools: Florida, Florida State and Miami.

The Spartans return two WRs with more than 30 receptions a year ago—Windrell Hayes (39) and David Doyle (32).

Coach Pokey Allen returns to full health after battling cancer throughout most of the '95 season.

Versatile senior Corey Walker was seventh in the nation in all-purpose yards last season with 1,883.

LB Jason Taylor (99 tackles, 5 sacks, 11 tackles for a loss) is one of the MAC's finest.

Charles Talley could make it two national rushing champs in four years for the Huskies, joining LeShon Johnson (1993).

The Bobcats play eight road games in a 10-week stretch, including trips to Hawaii, Northwestern and East Carolina.

All-independent candidate Raymond Philpaw has thrown 36 career TDs and only 14 INTs.

All-MAC performer Astron Whatley (978 yds.) and JUCO transfer Frankie Sinclair lead improving ground attack.

Think the rest of the WAC isn't excited? Rebels allowed 534.5 ypg last season in the Big West.

The Eagles are moving on up... from a I-AA playoff team in '94 to a I-A independent last year to the Big West this season.

Dennis Manns was the nation's top freshman running back a year ago, rushing for 1,120 yards (7.1 yds. per carry).

The Blazers' program is entering just its sixth season of competition and its first at the I-A level.

FREE! FREE! FREE!



HEY FANS!

Try a **FREE** ISSUE of
COLLEGE SPORTS
MAGAZINE...

and get the
BIGGEST & BEST
college football
coverage available!

**Use your No-Risk
Request Card NOW!**

PLUS!

- ✓ Get the inside story on **BASKETBALL... HOCKEY... BASEBALL...** and more!
- ✓ Meet **THE GREAT PLAYERS... THE TOP COACHES... THE HOT RECRUITS!**
- ✓ Get in-depth **PRE-SEASON PREVIEWS** with **STATS, RANKINGS** and **PROFILES** of **ALL THE TOP TEAMS.**
- ✓ Track the issues with **COLLEGE SPORTS Magazine's EXCLUSIVE SURVEYS, POLLS, and INTERVIEWS.**
- ✓ Keep tabs on the **HOTTEST BLUE CHIPPERS** with the **NATION'S BEST RECRUITING NEWS!**
- ✓ Get the lowdown on **ALL THE CONFERENCES** in **ALL THE DIVISIONS!**

Send for your FREE TRIAL ISSUE TODAY!

**For Fastest Service,
CALL 1-800-722-2346**
(Mon-Fri, 9am-7pm EST)

Mail to:

COLLEGE SPORTS, P.O. BOX 1982, DANBURY, CT 06813-1982

☒ **Sign me up!**

**NO-RISK
GUARANTEE!**

Send me the next 12 issues (one full year) of College Sports for only \$11.97 — saving me 67% off the \$35.88 newsstand price. If I decide not to continue, I'll write cancel on your bill, return it and owe nothing. The free trial copy is mine to keep.

☐ Payment Enclosed ☐ Bill me

Please allow 3-6 weeks for delivery.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

S66LXBG2

SEND NO MONEY NOW

entertainment

THAT'S

No matter how ridiculous Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier's 75-yard run at the end of the third quarter in the Huskers' 62-24 Fiesta Bowl rout seemed, it was borderline normal compared to the madness that prevailed on offense throughout the entire season. Frazier's trip through nearly every Florida defender on scholarship was merely an isolated absurdity, while the bonanza of broken records, statistical explosions and demoralized defenses was a three-month phenomenon that created a dictatorship of the offense in college football.

Every Saturday, it seemed as if some sort of individual or team mark was being assaulted, and when the season finally ended in an 86-point flea-flicker of a title game, NCAA statisticians had completed the most comprehensive rewrite of the record book ever. Teams combined to shatter seven offensive standards—combined passing attempts, completions, yards and touchdowns, total yards, total points and total touchdowns—and several individual marks were bettered as well. Before last year, only seven teams in college football history (or since the NCAA started keeping track of records in 1937) had boasted a 3,000-yard passer, a 1,000-yard rusher and a 1,000-yard receiver. In 1995, four schools accomplished that feat. Two more—Tennessee and Florida State—would have joined the group had their passers accumulated 50 more yards apiece. If, as poet William Blake said, "The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom," offensive coaches and players were downright brilliant last year.

Offenses are thriving because they have more skill players to plug into schemes that stretch defenses to their limits and create mismatches designed to turn speedsters loose in wide-open spaces. Quarterbacks are more versed than ever in reading defensive alignments and calling audibles that attack weaknesses. A decade of rule changes has all but legalized holding along the offensive line, moved the hashmarks closer to the middle of the field to force defenses to cover both sides every play and given receivers more room to operate once they clear the line of scrimmage. The fans love the carnage. The pollsters reward it. And high school players flock to play for coaches who can create it.

It seems as if everything favors the offenses now, and some wonder whether the defenses will ever catch up.

"The offense has the advantage now," Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning said. "There is no way defenses can prepare for everything we're going to throw at them in a given week with just 20 hours of practice time."

Here's why:

THE BASICS

Instead of taking cranial measurements of today's offensive coaches to discern the



causes of their collective genius, college football analysts should open the NFL history books. The explosion of points and yards owes more to the work done by professional mentors like Joe Gibbs and Bill Walsh than it does to the inspired minds in Boulder, Gainesville and Tallahassee. Great ideas always have trickled down from Sunday to Saturday.

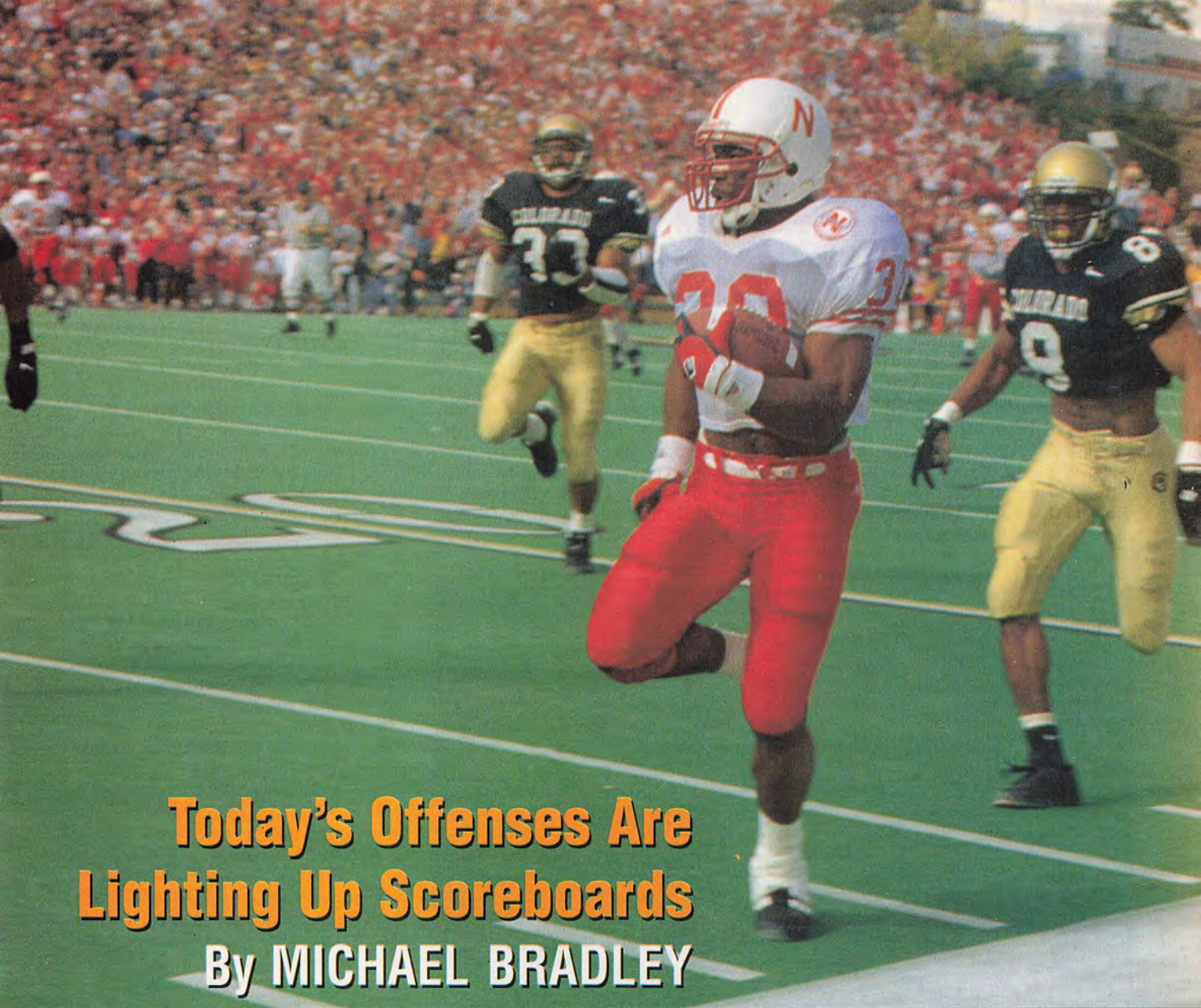
Why else would Ohio State quarterbacks coach Walt Harris smile whenever a professional coach visits Columbus to evaluate talent?

"When they come, I'm getting a free clinic," Harris said. "The guys in the NFL are by far the best football minds in the game."

Harris should know. He spent three years directing the New York Jets' passers, an experience which helped him turn Buckeye quarterback Bobby Hoying into a record-setter last year.

In the early 1980s, the Washington Redskins' "dash series" moved the pocket left or right, flooded an area with receivers and

TIM JACKSON



Today's Offenses Are Lighting Up Scoreboards

By MICHAEL BRADLEY

allowed Joe Theismann to pick the player left open by the outmanned secondary. Theismann didn't have the strongest arm or the desired quarterback size (he was only 6-feet tall), but he had a coach willing to fit a system to his agility, accuracy and decision-making skills.

In San Francisco, Walsh created a scheme presenting defenses with an almost infinite assortment of formations and motion packages that created confusion before the ball even was snapped. Once the play began, Joe Montana's lightning-quick reads exploited the apprehensive defenses and allowed him to deliver the ball to the open receiver—usually Jerry Rice. The pass routes were basic and often repetitive, but the variety of looks from which they came created mismatches and uncertainty.

"In the pros, a lot of people are on offense when they're playing defense," Harris said. "When they're playing the 49ers, they're on defense."

Collegiate defensive coaches are in the

same hapless state. They want to attack but they're afraid of committing to the run and getting scorched by the pass. If they load up in the secondary, however, they'll either be pounded by eager running backs or picked apart by well-schooled passers. Instead of breaking the huddle bound to one play, quarterbacks have the freedom to change at the line based on how the defense reacts to a given formation. They spread the field with three, four or five receivers and then find the weak spots.

"A lot of people put seven in the box [the imaginary rectangle surrounding the offensive and defensive fronts]," Nebraska quarterbacks coach Turner Gill said. "We line up with three wideouts and the shotgun and ask what they're going to do with the seventh guy. If they put him out on a receiver, we run. If he's inside, we throw."

Tennessee sets up many times in a generic "open" formation, with its backs in the I-formation, no tight end and three receivers. If Manning sees too many people in the box, he calls a pass play at the line to

Not even a herd of Buffalo could catch Nebraska's Ahman Green in the open field.

• • • • •

take advantage of single coverage. If the defense pulls back to defend against the pass, he'll go with a run. Last year, Manning made some pretty good pre-snap choices. He threw for 2,954 yards and 22 scores, while tailback Jay Graham gained a school-record 1,438 yards and scored 12 times.

"Most of our game plan is to make the defense stop either the pass or run, so we can do the other," Manning said. "Balance is the key."

Though many fans and media associate the offensive bonanza with the pass, Manning is right. Even Florida, which finished second in the nation in passing offense (360.8 ypg) in 1995, averaged 173.6 yards on the ground and had two backs gain more than 750 yards each.

"The running game can be a will-breaker, if you're getting physically mashed," Tennessee

OFFENSE

offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe said.

It all comes down to how well a team can create opportunities for an ever-improving collection of skill players. Colorado coach Rick Neuheisel talks of putting "great players in space," and that's what today's offenses do. By spreading the field, they force defenses to match up man-to-man, whether it is in the secondary or along the line of scrimmage. After that, it's up to the quarterback to make the right decision about who gets the ball. When he does, the onslaught starts.

"It's a question of how you are able to run and pass to get the ball to the guys who are gifted," Neuheisel said. "All I try to do is program the quarterback's mind so that he can recognize what the defense is doing and

then execute."

When teams do pass—and that is more often than ever, judging by last season's record-setting aerial orgy—they are not using any revolutionary pass patterns or outlandish formations. In fact, they may run the same play three or four times in a row, albeit from different formations and with different receivers running the routes. On first down, the halfback may head into the flat, and the tight end could curl. On second, an inside receiver is in the flat, and a back is curling. And so on. It doesn't matter to the quarterback who runs the patterns each time, but the defense must prepare for each variation on the same theme. With so much to know, there are bound to be breakdowns. That's when the big gains occur. And since pass-protection schemes are maturing, teams now can get five players into the pattern immediately after the snap and rely on the offensive line to handle the pass rush.

"We can flood the right side with basically the same play six or seven different ways," Cutcliffe said. "There's nothing different for the quarterback, because he makes the same reads. It's just different people getting into the same spots. It allows for a lot more versatility."

BACK WHEN I PLAYED

Florida coach Steve Spurrier likens himself to a basketball coach because he is so involved in running the game, particularly on offense. He doesn't delegate to an assistant, doesn't have to worry about somebody over him questioning the plays he calls. If he wants to go an entire game without running the football, he can do it—so long as the Gators win.

"About 85 percent of the head football coaches just stand on the sidelines and let the assistants coach," he said.

Spurrier is every bit as much a quarterback today as when he won the 1966 Heisman Trophy at Florida. The high-flying Gators attack is his offense, and if he had any eligibility left, he'd be out there directing it. He knows what to do when the pocket is crumbling and options one through three are covered. That's one of the reasons why Spurrier has had fine quarterbacks wherever he's coached, whether it was in the USFL, with Duke or in Gainesville. He played the position and he understands how to translate his experience into the mind of his passer.

The explosiveness of an offense relates directly to how quickly quarterbacks can assess defenses and make correct decisions about how to attack. In many ways, the mind has usurped the arm as the most important weapon in a passer's arsenal. A player capable of dissecting an opponent mentally need not be able to throw the ball 50 yards on a line. If he's smart enough to find the weak spots, he'll be throwing to wide-open receivers.

"The top quarterbacks all make good decisions," Spurrier said. "They know when to throw it and where to throw it. Defenses now are pretty complicated, and teams disguise them well. The quarterback needs to be an excellent thinker."

Having a head coach who was a quarterback allows teams to create the proper environments for that quarterback to learn. Consider the boss man the mainframe and the passer a PC. The more a coach can download into that quarterback's mind, the thicker the playbook and the fatter the scoring average. A quick look atop the total offense leaders for 1995 reveals an abundance of quarterbacks wearing the big headphones. Nebraska's Tom Osborne was a standout signal-caller at Hastings (Neb.) College. Neuheisel played at UCLA. Florida State's Bobby Bowden, Texas' John Mackovic, Penn State's Joe Paterno, San Diego State's Ted Tollner and, of course, Spurrier all lined up under center. The head coach-as-quarterback rule is not absolute, since Manning (see page 26) appears to be doing pretty well under the supervision of Phil Fullmer, a college lineman. But it helps.

Florida coach Steve Spurrier quarterbacked the Gators in the 1960s.



QUARTERBACKS KNOW BEST

A quick look atop the total offense leaders for 1995 reveals an abundance of former signal-callers now donning headphones. Among the top offensive coaches today who played quarterback in college:

Head coach/School	Career notes	Team's '95 offensive ranking
Steve Spurrier/Florida	Heisman Trophy-winning QB for Florida in 1966	4th total offense (534.4 ypg); 3rd scoring offense (44.4 ppg)
Bobby Bowden/Florida State	Little All-America QB at Howard College (now Samford) in 1951	3rd total offense (551.5 ypg); 2nd scoring offense (48.4 ppg)
Tom Osborne/Nebraska	Twice named State College Athlete of the Year at Hastings (Neb.) Coll.	2nd total offense (556.2 ypg); 1st scoring offense (52.4 ppg)
Rick Neuheisel/Colorado	1984 Rose Bowl MVP for UCLA in 45-9 rout of Illinois	6th total offense (486.6 ypg); 8th scoring offense (36.9 ppg)
Joe Paterno/Penn State	Led Brown to 8-1 mark in 1949; also holds career INT record (14)	21st total offense (420.2 ypg); 15th scoring offense (32.4 ppg)
John Mackovic/Texas	Backfield mate of Brian Piccolo at Wake Forest	17th total offense (433.2 ypg); 18th scoring offense (31.7 ppg)
Ted Tollner/San Diego State	Starting QB for Cal Poly SLO; survived 1960 plane crash that killed 16 players	7th total offense (482 ypg); 12th scoring offense (33.4 ppg)



The JUMPSOLES SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS

with Ronnie Lott

Who else wants to jump 5-10 inches higher and run .2 sec faster?

"My 40 time went from 5.1 down to 4.8 - Thanks Jumpsoles!"
- A. Franklin, Philadelphia, PA

"In only 4 weeks I gained 7 inches!"
- M. King, Miami, FL

"My football team gained an average of 6-1/2 inches... I am truly amazed!"
- G. Agnitsch, Benicia, CA

1 Work hard!

Plyometric training has proven to be the most effective way to increase vertical jump 5-10 inches, sprinting speed .2 sec faster at 40 yds. Builds fast twitch muscle fibers and neural connections for explosive leaping and quickness. Converts your own shoes into state of the art plyometric trainers.

Used by top athletes with astounding results! Gain slam dunk vertical. Includes complete training program. Guaranteed to boost your vertical jump 5-10 inches and slash your 40 yd dash time by .2 sec or your money back!



The world's one and only attachable plyometric platforms



• Super durable, non marking crossstraining soles grip on court or turf.

• At 4+ lbs, the hardest workout your calves will ever feel!

• Comes in white or black

• Military spec hook & loop, rock-solid fit.

• High-density urethane construction

2 Hit hard!

3 Celebrate hard!

Run Faster!
.2 sec faster or your money back!

Jump Higher!
5-10 inches or your money back!

ORDER NOW!

RONNIE LOTT

15 Seasons NFL
10 Pro Bowls
4 Superbowl Rings
1 pair Jumpsoles



I built my reputation as a heavy hitter. You can too, with Jumpsoles. You'll hit harder, jump higher, and run faster... to better escape from guys like me.

WIN an all expense paid trip to a 49'er game & meet Ronnie Lott! No purchase required! Just call this number now!

Drawing takes place on 11/28/96

(586-7872)

1-800-JUMP-USA ext. 896

Visa MC AmEx Discv

Coaches: Ask about our team discount!

Foreign orders and distributors call 415-967-4787

or, fax this info to 415-967-6680 attn: Dept 896

Yes! Rush me a pair of Jumpsoles. I want to jump higher and run faster than I've ever before... or my money back!

Enclosed is my check or money order: **only \$59.95** plus \$6 shipping. CA residents add 7.75% tax. In Canada/Mexico add \$10. Other countries add \$29.

Metapro Dept. 896

140 S. Whisman Rd. Mountain View, CA 94041

Send to: _____ Size: __ Mens'? W's? Blk_ White_

_____ Visa_ MC_ Amex_ Discv_

_____ Card # _____

_____ Expiration Date: _____

_____ Authorized Signature: _____

Phone: () _____

OFFENSE

"Coach Spurrier is so thorough in everything," said Florida senior Danny Wuerffel, who threw for 3,266 yards and 35 TDs last year. "So many coaches have a lot of the same ideas and a lot of the same pass routes, but [Spurrier] is so precise down to every little step or the positioning of your head. You

combine that with a knack for calling the right play in the right situation, and it's a great help."

Neuheisel praises Spurrier's ability to "organize his quarterback's mind" and talks about the value of transferring his knowledge to his passer. "It's not what you know, it's what they know," he said of coaching.

For Neuheisel and coaches like him, it is essential that quarterbacks know how to solve opposing defenses before the snap. Once they do that, it comes down to simple

execution. That's why Buffaloes quarterback Koy Detmer can throw a 25-yard completion to a wide-open receiver in practice and still not please Neuheisel. For the coach, the process is as important as the result. Yes, the ball got there. Yes, it's a first down. But if you don't know why you did it, it might not work the next time.

"[Coach Neuheisel] asks us questions all the time to make sure that the answer is what he wants," Detmer said. "Even if we throw it to the right person, he wants us to say what we saw. If

we just threw it because the guy was open and not because of what we saw in the defense, then he says the play doesn't count.

"Whatever he tells you, he's speaking from experience. He knows what you're going through. He knows the pressure and the nerves that come with being a quarterback. He talks about focus and using your mind."

SEEING RED

You can bet Arizona State has its Sept. 21 home date with Nebraska circled on its calendar—partly, out of revenge, but mostly, out of fear. Just last season the Sun Devils journeyed to Lincoln only to find themselves trailing, 63-14, at the half, and went on to lose, 77-28. But Arizona State had company. Nebraska's opponents lost by an average of more than 38 points per game, the same margin of victory the Huskers toasted No. 2 Florida (62-24) by in the Fiesta Bowl.

Many teams, most notably Nebraska, Florida and Florida State, were accused of running up the score to impress pollsters last season. But, as Nebraska coach Tom Osborne points out in his defense, it's hard to ask third- and fourth-team players to play hard in practice and not perform when they get a chance in game situations. "We used 100 players against Arizona State and only scored two touchdowns in the second half—one on an interception. People still said we ran it up for the polls."

And if you think Nebraska was running up the score last year, consider this: The 1944 Army squad defeated its opponents by an average of 52.1 points per game. Here's a look at which schools inflicted the most damage to their opponents last season:

Team	Avg. PPG	Avg. PPG Allowed	Avg. Margin of Victory
Nebraska	52.4	13.6	38.8
Florida State	48.4	20.0	28.4
Florida	44.5	16.8	27.7
Kansas State	36.5	13.2	23.3
Ohio State	38.4	16.7	21.7
Tennessee	37.4	19.5	17.9
Auburn	38.5	21.8	16.7
Colorado	36.9	21.3	15.6
Virginia Tech	29.2	14.1	15.1

Nebraska's running attack, led by freshman Ahman Green, racked up close to 400 yards per game last season. The Huskers also rolled up more than 52 points per game, best in the nation.



Nebraska coach Tom Osborne denies running up the score to impress pollsters, even though his Huskers squad buried opponents by more than 38 ppg last season.

VOTES AND TICKETS

If Nebraska's fourth-string tailback busts loose for a 78-yard end-zone dash in the last minute of another rout of some hapless non-conference opponent, Osborne is likely to be as happy about it as the player's family and friends. When it comes to rolling up huge point totals, the Huskers coach is worried more about team morale than the accusations that his team is running up the score to impress voters.

"The most important thing is to keep the players happy," said Osborne, whose Nebraska squad beat its opponents by an average of 38.8 points per game last season. "I don't worry about the polls and running up the score. I worry about players being happy. We used 100 players against Arizona State [in a 77-28 humiliation of the Sun Devils] and only scored two touchdowns in the second half—one on an interception. People still said we ran it up for the polls."

There is some merit to Osborne's morale argument. It's tough to ask third- and fourth-teamers to work hard each week in practice if coaches aren't

JONATHAN DANIEL/ALSPORT USA

DAMIAN STONCHAK/ALSPORT USA

going to let them perform when they get into games. And many of the top teams' deep reserves are often better than their opponents' front-line players.

But no coach is completely honest if he says he doesn't understand the relationship between big scores and the polls or entertaining offenses and healthy bottom lines. Fifty-point wins impress voters and sell tickets.

Were the national title decided by a playoff system, then 11 wins by a total of 11 points would be rewarded with a berth in the tournament and a chance for a team to prove its strength. Since a spot in this season's Sugar Bowl will depend completely on how attractive a team is to voters, points matter. And don't think coaches at the top programs don't know that.

"There is a group of a few teams each year vying for No. 1, and those five or six schools would probably be lying if they said they weren't aware that a lot of points affects voters," Cutcliffe said. "But a lot of big scores are caused by momentum swings. You get hot, and the other team is not, and everything you do works."

Cutcliffe knows what he's talking about. The Vols scored 50 or more points twice last season but also allowed Florida to hang up 62, including 41 in the second half. In many ways, pollsters are like fans. Big numbers always get their attention. Put a fan through three hours of continuous scoring and 15 lead changes, and he'll probably spend the next seven days bragging to his pals how he saw the greatest game ever played. Force most head coaches to endure that and they'll make sure their defensive staff doesn't sleep the following week.

"Fans enjoy high-scoring games," said Texas A&M coach R.C. Slocum. "The average fan would think a 41-39 game is much more exciting than a 7-6 game. But it's all a matter of perspective. If my team just played in a 41-39 game, I'd walk off the field wondering where the defenses were."

Nebraska proved the value of good defense when it shot down Florida's air corps in last season's Junk Food Bowl. Championships still begin on the dull side of the ball. Tickets, however, are sold these days with points and yards, not bone-jarring hits. College football may still lag behind the NFL in the entertainment department, but schools are certainly aware of the relationship between on-field excitement and a healthy bank account. Score points, sell tickets, make money. It's a simple formula. A team that wins 10 games a year by shutting out opponents probably fills the seats, but a defensive-minded six-win squad isn't going to have the Winnebagoes pulling in each Saturday.

Before all you purists reach for the Pepto-Bismol, keep in mind that schools must milk the gridiron cash cow more than ever, because of gender equity. As Title IX continues its unbeaten streak in the courts, colleges are forced to bring long-needed balance to their athletic programs. Since football remains

one of the few money-making entities among Division I-A sports, athletic directors must increase revenues wherever possible. If that means hiring an offensive-minded head coach whose approach to defense is somewhat casual, so be it. At least the fans will come out to watch the scoreboard spin—on both sides.

"College football competes with the pros," Spurrier said. "Fans like to see touchdowns and long passes. It's an entertainment business-type deal. But that's not the reason why we throw so often. We do it because it's my background, the style I feel most comfortable with. It's my expertise."

At a tradition-bound school like Michigan, where it would take several years of relative football malaise—rather like the period the Wolverines are enduring now—to keep 105,000 faithful from squeezing into the 18 bleacher inches allotted them every Saturday, the offense need not be so wide open. Schools with uneven histories of success, however, need to win and entertain to fill the seats. That's why the run-and-shoot surfaces every so often. Because of its heavy reliance on the pass, the offense cannot produce championships, but it does allow quarterbacks to throw for 400 yards a game and yield plenty of crowd-pleasing track meets.

"If coaches are interested in keeping their jobs, they need to entertain," Cutcliffe said.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

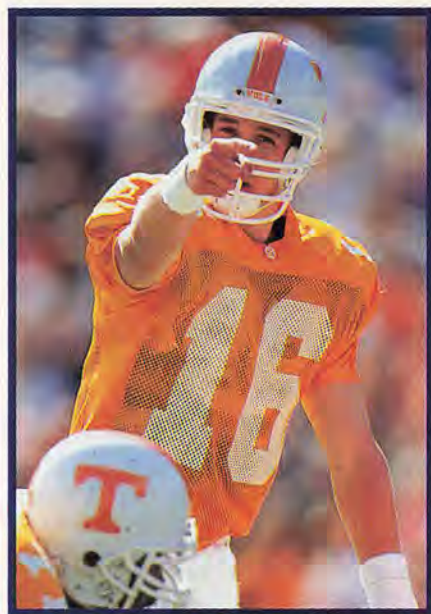
It may have been only the last two years that Nebraska finally scaled college football's summit under Osborne, but the Huskers have piled up yards and points each of his 20-plus seasons in charge.

While other schools have reinvented their attacks several times during his tenure, the Huskers have mixed a crunching power ground game with the option year after year. There always seems to be five scarlet-and-cream-clad steam shovels clearing the way for a Heisman Trophy candidate in Lincoln, while some clever quarterback confounds the opponents' perimeter people with his ballhandling. The talent is there. But so is the scheme. And because of that system's success, Nebraska coaches enjoy a built-in motivational advantage. Trust us, they tell players. Our way has worked before, and it will work again.

"The players believe in our offense," said Gill, who in 1983 engineered one of the most potent attacks (52.0 ppg, 546.7 ypg, single-season record 624 points scored) in college football history. "When they get the facts about what we've done the last 10 years, they buy into it. It's like buying stocks. You look at the history, and you feel more confident."

"If maybe we're down a little in talent in one or two positions, the system takes over."

Though the framework of the Nebraska offense has remained the same, it has evolved considerably during the past two decades. The Huskers throw the ball more



BOB ROSATO

The offense has the advantage now. There is no way defenses can prepare for everything we're going to throw at them in a given week with just 20 hours of practice time.

—Tennessee QB Peyton Manning

than they used to—Frazier tossed 17 TD passes last year—and they employ many of the running plays which have gained favor during the past few years, like the counter Trey. What fans don't see, however, is the ever-increasing sophistication of the Huskers' blocking approaches.

New Florida defensive coordinator Bob Stoops, who coached for the past seven seasons at Big Eight rival Kansas State, marvels at Nebraska's ability to hit opponents with such a variety of offensive-line schemes. Even though the Wildcats, who led the country in total defense last year, "limited" the Huskers to 190 rushing yards (about 210 below Nebraska's average) in last year's 49-25 loss, Stoops still was impressed with how Nebraska's ground game operated and was dazzled by the Huskers' ability to block the same play two or three different ways in the same game.

"People just don't realize that Nebraska is every bit as bright and sophisticated at running the ball as anybody passing it," Stoops said. "Their runs are just as polished as anybody's passes. People think they're basic, but they're the most complex offense we faced. It's not as fashionable to run the

OFFENSE

ball as it is to pass it, but football coaches appreciate Nebraska."

And they dread the Husker option, which may not produce NFL quarterbacks but makes Nebraska practically impossible to prepare for. Since few teams use the option as much or as effectively as the Huskers, enemy defenses must concoct and practice schemes they won't use again all season. Nebraska, however, keeps pressuring the perimeter with the option, in every game and every situation.

"The option puts more pressure on defensive coaches and players," Gill said. "They have to take out more time in practice to work against it. You need a lot of discipline on defense against the option, and if you don't have it, that's when the big plays occur."

and was second in scoring defense last year. Because of that, the players looked at him differently than if I had told them he was a coach from Kansas whom I thought was pretty good."

THE NUMBERS GAME

When Bobby Bowden started coaching at Florida State, he only needed four top-flight receivers—two starters and two backups—on his roster. Now, he needs eight. That means nearly 10 percent of FSU's 85 scholarships go to guys who catch the ball.

"Everybody wants to be a receiver now," said Bowden, who had not one but two 1,000-yard receivers [E.G. Green and Andre Cooper] last season—one of three pass-catching tandems to pull the trick last season [San Diego State's Will Blackwell and Az Hakim and Florida's Ike Hilliard and Chris Doering were the others].

Meanwhile, the line for defensive back is

to cope when an opponent uses three receivers, but it is often helpless when a fourth speedster shows up in the slot. "Then, they'll put a fifth receiver in and see how good your fifth defensive back is," exasperated Notre Dame defensive coordinator Bob Davie said.

When teams score a lot of points, great skill players want to play there. Quarterbacks want to throw, and wide receivers want to catch. The best ones are going to go where they'll be featured.

"We don't score points for the polls, we do so to have fun," Detmer said. "It gets the crowd into it, and it makes it exciting for the fans. They always say the offense gets the glory, and a lot of high school kids want to be part of a big show. Some switch over to the offensive side of the ball for the fun of it."

Though the NCAA has put in strict limitations on practice time during the season, it hasn't yet directed quarterbacks and receivers on how long they can work out together the


other eight months of the year. Harris tells of a senior receiver who was amazed by the commitment of the younger Buckeyes skill players during the winter. Twenty years ago, off-season workout programs were conditioning-driven. Now, players augment the running and lifting with pitching and catching.

"When that many guys are working on routes, it becomes their offense, not the coaches' offense," Harris said. "That's when you really turn the corner."

Some defensive backs hone their man-to-man coverage skills during the off-season by joining the quarterbacks and receivers. Without a full secondary, plus linebackers, they can't replicate the intricacies of cover-

age schemes and fall behind their offensive counterparts. Once practice and games start again in the fall, the components of the passing game fit together much more comfortably than do defenses, and teams can incorporate much more into their repertoire. Defenses just can't catch up.

"It's unbelievably helpful to a quarterback," Detmer said of working out with receivers in the off-season. "It enables him to get timing and coordination with his receivers. If you don't know exactly where a receiver is going to go on an out route or the speed he's going to run it, it will throw the whole offense's timing off."

These days, schools don't have to worry too much about that. Even if the offense skips a beat, it still will have a step up on the defenders trying to stop it. 

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.

RAPID-FIRE

Just how explosive were some of last year's offenses? Take the five highest-scoring teams: On the average, these teams needed a little more than two minutes to score, or about the time of a commercial break on television.

Even at Nebraska, where the Huskers averaged 57 rushing attempts per game compared to just 20.7 passing attempts, the defense had little chance to catch its breath on the sidelines. The Huskers had 16 scoring drives of three plays or less and twice scored on their first offensive play from scrimmage.

Here's a look at the average time of possession for last year's top five scoring teams, counting only offensive touchdowns:

School	Avg. PPG	Touchdowns	Avg. Time of Poss.
Florida State	48.4	71	1:50
Florida	44.5	72	2:04
Nebraska	52.4	69	2:09
Auburn	38.5	54	2:30
Nevada	44.0	63	2:42



Ike Hilliard and the Gators offense struck quickly in '95

ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT USA

You won't ever catch Spurrier's teams running the option, no matter how much pressure it would put on defenses. Since he began as a head coach with the Tampa Bay Bandits of the USFL, Spurrier has let his quarterbacks throw all over the place. That strategy made a star out of ancient John Reaves with the USFL in Tampa, helped Anthony Dilweg and Dave Brown post huge numbers at Duke and turned Shane Matthews and Wuerffel into Heisman contenders at Florida. None, however, has had great success in the NFL. Even though Wuerffel set an NCAA single-season passing efficiency record with a 178.4 rating last year, he's back for his senior season in part because pro scouts aren't yet sold on his talents. Wuerffel is a good quarterback. In Spurrier's system, he's a great one.

"A track record gives a coach credibility," Spurrier said. "When I introduced Bob Stoops to our defensive group, I told them Kansas State led the nation in total defense

getting shorter every year. Coaches are forced to decide where to put their best athletes, and many are choosing offense—much to the players' delight. Few cornerbacks other than Deion Sanders (a frustrated receiver, as it turns out) end up with endorsement deals and athletic shoes named after them. You have to score, not prevent touchdowns, to get those perks.

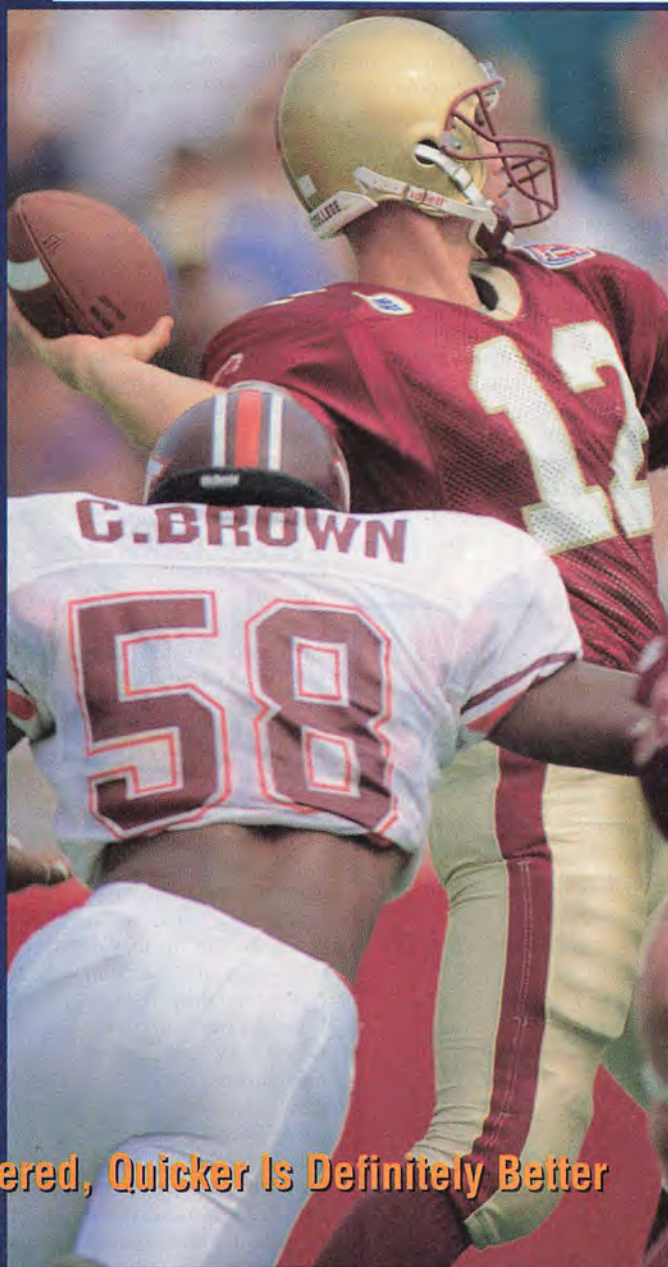
"In the past, 6-foot-4 kids thought they had to be tight ends," Neuheisel said. "Now, they're seeing tall wideouts like J.J. Stokes and Michael Westbrook, and when they go out for Pop Warner, they want to be wide receivers, even though they're the tallest kids on the team."

With multiple-receiver offenses gobbling up so many scholarships and capturing the imaginations of young players, teams often find it impossible to recruit enough outstanding coverage cornerbacks and safeties. A defense may have enough talent in the secondary

THE BEST defense?

As Nebraska Discovered, Quicker Is Definitely Better

By MICHAEL BRADLEY



will have to restrict what it can do. It's a question of wills. We're coming after you, and if you think you can run stuff against us, well, we'll see."

In 1995, Nebraska and Texas A&M were among the few schools in the country with enough top-flight athletes on defense to overcome significant advantages—better overall speed, favorable rules, diverse schemes, recruiting ceilings, off-season practice time and the old-fashioned element of surprise—enjoyed by today's college offenses. Most teams were helpless while records were established for combined points, pass attempts and completions, passing yards and total yards per game. Meanwhile, last year's scoring defense champ, Northwestern, surrendered 12.7 points per game—the highest total ever by a leader. By season's end, enough offensive coaches had been hailed as geniuses to double the ranks of Mensa, while the labels reserved for their defensive counterparts were largely unprintable.

"It's hard to stop these offenses," Tennessee defensive end Leonard Little said. "The quarterbacks are better than ever before, and they can get the ball to the wide receivers so quickly. And those guys can turn a 5-yard completion into a 60-yard run."

All you needed to know about the state of defense in

Defensive coaches around the country had to be cheering wildly for three hours while Nebraska delivered a 62-24 roundhouse to Florida's swaggering Fun-and-Gun passing game in January's Chip-and-Dip Bowl. Instead of allowing the game to degenerate into the kind of grass basketball free-for-all the Gators favored during the regular season, the Huskers played real football. They pummeled Florida with a brutish running game and unleashed a defense so athletic and mean that the slick Gators attack had no chance. By the third quarter, football was safe again from the tyranny of offense.

For at least eight months.

Nebraska has won two straight national championships because head coach Tom Osborne finally realized you can't win big games with a plodding, passive defense. In

Tempe, Ariz., the swift Huskers confounded Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel and trashed Steve Spurrier's supposedly unstoppable Swampwaffe. Their formula: Enough perimeter speed to handle five-receiver sets one-on-one and a rare mixture of quickness and muscle up front that overwhelmed the Gators pass protectors and disrupted Florida's offensive rhythm. In stifling the Gators, Nebraska gave a symposium on the only way to play winning defense these days. Its thesis: Storm the gates for 60 minutes and make the offense sweat.

"You can't sit there trying to react to all those formations and routes," said Texas A&M coach R.C. Slocum, whose Aggies finished third in the country in scoring defense and total defense last year. "At some point, you have to dictate to them—we're going to put so much pressure on the offense that it

1995 came when Virginia "limited" Florida State to 546 total yards and four touchdowns in a stirring 33-28 win that snapped the Seminoles' 29-game ACC winning streak. After the game, Virginia defensive coordinator Rick Lantz, who had been excoriated earlier in the season, was universally praised for a strategy that secured victory only when Florida State tailback Warrick Dunn was stopped a scant inch from the end zone on the game's final play. Had Dunn scored, Lantz would just have been another game but overmatched coach unable to stop the runaway train that is college football offense.

Defensive coaches know exactly what today's offenses are trying to accomplish and have a pretty good idea of how to stop them. They try to challenge the free-wheeling offenses with fast, hostile units capable of matching up man-to-man with receivers

TOMASSO DEROSA

DEFENSE

while still bloodying some noses along the line of scrimmage. The old days of read-and-react are over. Today's good ones attack.

Take Kansas State, which led the nation in total defense (250.8 ypg) last year, finished second in scoring defense (13.2 ppg) and forced offenses to go three-and-punt on nearly half of their possessions. The Wildcats used man-to-man coverage 75 percent of the time and blitzed continuously in a scheme that just oozed testosterone.

"We're not intimidated by all the talk about the offenses," said Florida's new defensive coordinator Bob Stoops, formerly of Kansas State. "We're going to go out and get after them. If anybody scores more than two

touchdowns on us, we're not happy."

If Stoops' two-score standard had been applied throughout the college game last year, there would have been a sizable dose of defensive depression. And while coaches have not yet discovered a gridiron Prozac, they do have some solutions.

THE BIG PICTURE

When the Huskers were losing bowl games every year, they persisted in playing a passive 5-2 defense that asked their ends to do too much. After enough postseason disappointments, Osborne switched to an attacking 4-3 configuration and began recruiting players who were every bit as fast and athletic as Nebraska's running backs and receivers. Defensive backs became linebackers. Linebackers were made into defensive ends. Size didn't matter. Speed did.

"Our rush ends are not as big as some people's," Osborne said. "[Grant] Wistrom and [Jared] Tomich only weigh 240 pounds. We don't consider them defensive linemen. And since our outside linebackers can run 10.5 or 10.6 for 100 meters, they're more like defensive backs."

Today's successful defenses are fast. Period. They're also strong, still pretty big and well-coached. But if they're slow, they have a slim chance against today's high-octane offenses which try to create one-on-one situations for their outstanding athletes. Because Nebraska was fast enough to match up with the Gators receivers man-to-man and fly past the protection to fluster Wuerffel, Osborne didn't have to worry about the Huskers falling into a quick hole, like so many of Florida's victims had. That meant Nebraska could pound away on the ground and exhaust the Gators defense. The Huskers coach figured the breakthrough would come in the fourth quarter, but it didn't take nearly that long.

By clubbing the Gators, Nebraska proved that winning teams still must be able to run the football and stop opponents from doing the same. No matter how much flashy vertical

passing games might thrill the fans, championships are still won or lost on the ground.

"There is nothing more demoralizing than someone taking the football and running it at you," Notre Dame defensive coordinator Bob Davie said. "I would much rather you throw it on me, because psychologically, it is tough to watch someone running it on you. Then you know you're really getting beaten."

HEAD GAMES

All those "genius" offensive coaches drop off the honor roll if their quarterbacks can't make good on-field decisions. Every play has a definitive answer to each defensive scheme. If A, then B. The more comfortable a quarterback feels making his choices, the easier it is for him to execute, and the smarter his coach looks.

So, defensive coaches have to rattle passers by disguising coverages, switching looks after the ball is snapped and pillaging the pocket. Slocum says that his Aggies may blitz all-out only five times a game, but enemy passers still worry about the jailbreak every down. Virginia Tech will sometimes slide a linebacker out after the snap to double-team an inside receiver, just to cause some confusion. Some quarterbacks can adjust well to defensive variables. Others panic.

"Quarterbacks want to read one thing and know immediately what to do with the ball," Lantz said. "What we're trying to do is cause the quarterback a little bit of a perception problem. We want to make him hold the ball a little longer."

There are other techniques. East Carolina gave opposing quarterbacks the same two-deep zone pre-snap look 80 percent of the time last year before switching into a different scheme after the play started. Kansas State did a lot of "stemming," or switching their defensive set, just before the ball was snapped. Others used the zone blitz, in which teams play zones rather than man-to-man when sending extra pass rushers. If the passer doesn't recognize it, he'll throw right into coverage.

Of course, all that jumping around and post-snap chicanery can lead to blown assignments. Slocum prefers to find one scheme and let his players' athletic abilities handle the variables, rather than giving them too many options which confuse them or sap their confidence.

Davie agrees. "If you try something on offense and it doesn't work, it's just second-and-10," he said. "If you try it on defense and it doesn't work, it could be 7-0."

MANO-A-MANO

If there was any justice in Davie's world, sophomore Autry Denson would be fortifying Notre Dame's thin secondary this year, instead of playing tailback. But football isn't fair, and even though Davie realizes Denson is a rare talent under whose arm the ball belongs, he's tired of seeing the best athletes on the field running and catching and scoring.

"If I'm a head coach, I'm going to take the

ON THE 'D'-CLINE

Just another example of how dominating offenses were in 1995: In winning the defensive scoring title, Northwestern allowed an average of almost two touchdowns per game, an all-time high. That's almost twice as many points as Oklahoma surrendered in 1986 (6.6 ppg). The Wildcats also yielded an average of 321.5 ypg last season, almost twice as many as that Sooners squad (169.6 ypg). A look at how the last 10 defensive scoring champs compare:

Year	School	Avg. PPG	Avg. YPG
1995	Northwestern	12.7	321.5
1994	Miami (Fla.)	10.8	220.9
1993	Florida State	9.4	284.5
1992	Arizona	8.9	253.0
1991	Miami (Fla.)	9.1	288.7
1990	Central Michigan	8.9	232.6
1989	Miami (Fla.)	9.3	216.5
1988	Auburn	7.2	218.1
1987	Oklahoma	7.5	208.1
1986	Oklahoma	6.6	169.6



Northwestern may have had the top scoring defense in 1995, but it was the most permissive leader in college football history.

difference-makers and put them on offense," Davie admitted. "That's why we're running out of quality skill people on defense."

That thinning harvest makes it more difficult for defensive coaches to fill the position most critical to stopping free-wheeling offenses—cornerback. Teams which can't match up man-to-man when offenses scatter receivers in a 53-yard ribbon across the field are doomed to failure. They must resort to zone coverages that use more players and take away any advantages the defense had along the line of scrimmage. Against a team like Nebraska, which employed three wideouts and jammed the ball down an opponent's gullet by running behind its elk-sized linemen, zones led to long, protracted deaths. Against Florida, the result was a quick execution, since the Gators receivers had room to work free and turned short passes into long touchdowns. Against Florida State, it meant both. Seminole quarterback Danny Kanell threw for 2,957 yards and 32 touchdowns last year, and Dunn rushed for a school-record 1,242 yards.

"Defenses are going to put four guys out there and see if you can cover them," Davie said. "If you can't, you have to play zone, and then they'll run the ball at you. If you can, then they'll put a fifth guy out there. They want to stress you until you run out of guys who can cover."

Every defensive coordinator is looking for guys like Kansas State cornerback Chris Canty, a 5-foot-10, 179-pound shield with 4.4 speed. Because of Canty and his fast, brash defensive backfield friends, the Wildcats were able to play man-to-man defense a majority of the time last year and outnumber opponents in the "box," that imaginary rectangle around the offensive line and the defensive front seven.

"People get in trouble when offenses stretch them out," Stoops said. "That gives the offense all the options. When the offense

spread the field on us, we matched up with them with a man-to-man defense and challenged all the receivers and quarterbacks. We put pressure on them but still tried to stop the run at all costs."

FRONT MEN

Consider the lot of the defensive lineman. That 300-pound mound across from him is no longer just a giant Jell-O mold in cleats. He can run. And when they stick a running back behind him, it's almost impossible to find the little guy.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, teams like Miami (Fla.) emphasized speed over nearly every other defensive attribute. The Hurricanes used a 4-3 alignment and shot their linemen upfield every play, creating considerable havoc. To counter the invasions, offenses ran more counters, traps and delays, and the zealous linemen were pushed out of the play. Most teams have embraced the 4-3 but have adjusted the big guys' assignments.

"Our linemen are still very aggressive with their first step, but then they react to the hips of the offensive linemen they've lined up on," Michigan defensive coordinator Greg Mattison said. "We can react to the blocking schemes on the move, and if the [offensive linemen's] helmet pops up, we can still get a great pass rush, thanks to that big first step."

Finding the right physical mix for defensive linemen has required some creativity. For instance, some of today's ends used to be linebackers. Tackles might have been tight ends in a previous life. Tennessee's Little and Virginia Tech senior end Cornell Brown (see page 38), last year's Big East Defensive Player of the Year, are prototypical linemen for today's attacking schemes. Each goes about 240 pounds and is swift enough to catch running backs trying to get outside or race past tackles in one-on-one pass-blocking situations. And they are strong enough to handle the rough stuff inside.

"The bigger they are up front, the better—as long as they can run," said Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer, whose team was fifth in scoring defense (14.1 ppg) last season. "We're looking for guys who can run and redirect. They've got a fast twitch to them that allows them to change direction."

"Cornell is powerful, so he can play with leverage on a big guy. But he's so quick that if we can get a 300-pound tackle and Cornell in space, Cornell has the advantage."

Linemen and linebackers who can move enable defensive coaches to leave cornerbacks alone with today's taller, faster receivers without guzzling antacid every play. Canty was a first-team All America last year but wouldn't



ALLEN KEEL/BOB ROSATO SPORT PHOTOGRAPHY

To combat today's wide-open offenses, head coaches everywhere are searching for speedy cornerbacks like All America Chris Canty (8 INTs in 1995).

have been nearly as successful without 1995 Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year Tim Colston, who keyed a front seven that assaulted enemy passers continuously.

"The defensive line is 90 percent of it," Canty said. "If they don't get pressure on the quarterback, the greatest corner can get beaten. If the quarterback only has two or three seconds back there, I can cover somebody that long. Good linemen make me a better player."

GOT ALL THAT?

There's a good reason why Florida ram-paged through 12 games during the 1995 season before finding someone able to stop its offense: Putting all of the aforementioned defensive wisdom together into one stifling unit isn't easy. It requires a significant commitment to recruit the kinds of players capable of thriving in attacking schemes, the fortitude to play man-to-man defense three-quarters of the time and the same kind of creative coaching that has helped the offenses become so successful.

For those few schools capable of doing all that, the prospect of facing weekly assaults from record-setting systems isn't so grim. But the rest shouldn't give up hope. Sports are cyclical, and the day when the defense rules again may not be so far away. In the meantime, defensive coaches will have to wait while their offensive counterparts get all the glory.

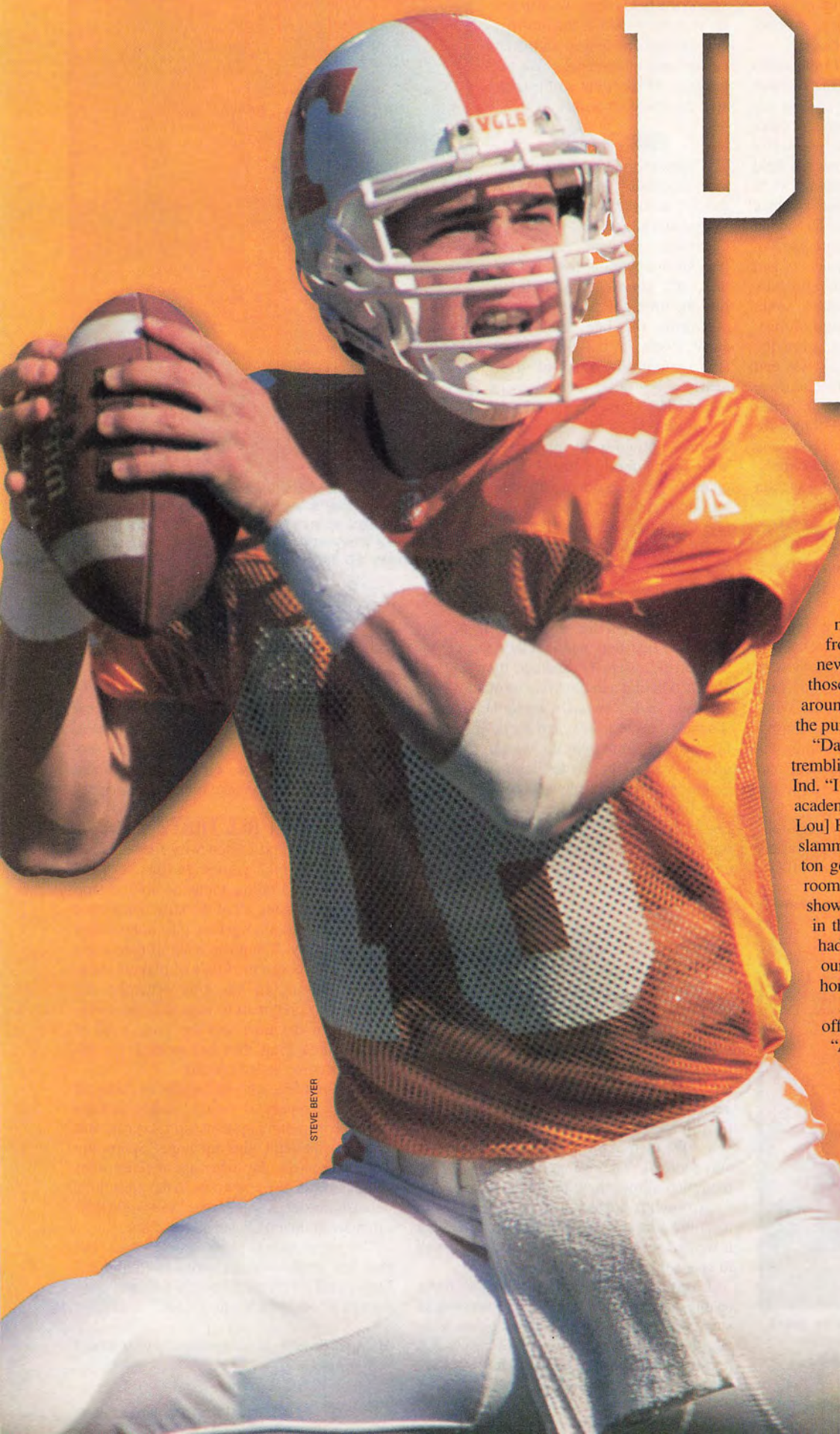
"A lot of things favor the offenses, but that just makes things more challenging," Davie said. "I'm glad I coach defense, even though I complain about it a lot."

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.



DAVID L. GREENE

Tennessee's Leonard Little is part of a new breed of faster defensive ends in college football.



STEVE BEYER

PEY

Their two oldest sons off on another recruiting visit, Archie and Olivia Manning were at the movies back home in New Orleans when the phone message came. Uh oh. It was from Cooper, their eldest, and the news hit Archie about as hard as those tacklers who used to belt him around the Superdome when he was the punching bag of the sadsack Saints. "Dad, uh, trouble here," said Cooper's trembling voice from far-off South Bend, Ind. "I forgot to wake up Peyton for the academic meetings. [Notre Dame coach Lou] Holtz came over and got mad so I slammed the door in his face. Then Peyton got involved, we trashed the hotel room and he punched out Holtz. Who shows up then but Rudy, the walk-on in that movie. What an [expletive]. I had to deck him, too. Holtz tore up our airline tickets so we're coming home on a bus."

After the phone message clicked off, it took the legendary, former "Archie Who" several minutes before he settled down, recovered and figured out the "Say What, Where and Why" of how his sons had fooled him yet again. That, and the less gullible Olivia reassuring her husband that the message was another hoax. "I knew Dad would swallow it right away," Cooper said. "I'd been

-DIRT

Ever Since Peyton Manning Took Over at Tennessee, Vols Fans Have Been Dreaming of a National Title

By CURRY KIRKPATRICK

doing it to him for 20 years. No reason he'd wise up this time."

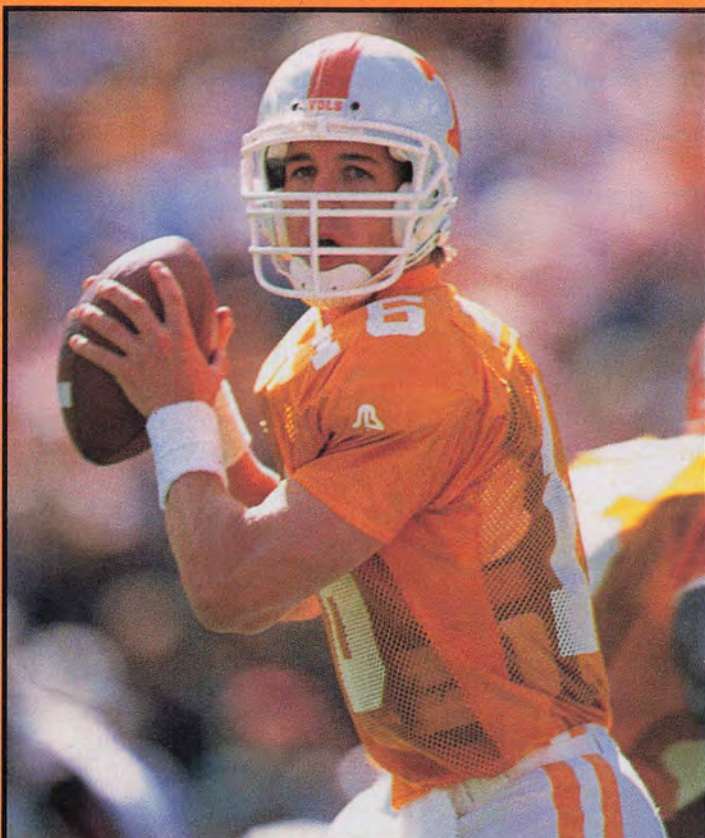
The irony of the Manning clan experiencing even a speck of trouble is manifest to anyone who has basked in the glow of southern football's—with due apologies to the Bowdens—favorite family. Such a wholesome, handsome, straight-shooting, popular, classy bunch hasn't traveled down the pike since TV's Nelsons. And this time, the father even has a job.

Cooper, recently graduated from Archie's alma mater, Mississippi, is the comically inclined of the Manning men; youngest son Elijah (Eli), 15, a sophomore quarterback at Isidore Newman High School in New Orleans, the quiet one. But it is the middle Manning, Peyton—Tennessee's junior All America who has been a star from the moment he left Newman and donned the quarterback's helmet in Knoxville two seasons ago—who best portrays the focused, organized, serious side of his famous dad.

He looks like him, of course: Bark-colored hair, remnants of freckles, a crooked nose, the open, sturdy face reflecting (as once written of Archie) "a certain quality of sadness and rural innocence." He saunters into the huddle like him. He even stands in repose on the gridiron with one hand on his hip pads like him. Peyton doesn't have his father's athleticism, his natural skills, that scramble-for-his-life creativity. But then he doesn't have to.

"On the high school game films, he never got hit," Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer said. "The ball was already gone before anybody could touch him."

Suddenly whisked into the fury of big-time Southeastern Conference play as a freshman in 1994, Manning's steadfast preparation, intelligence and bravery served him well, and the Volunteers won seven of the eight games he started. As a sophomore, he led Tennessee to an 11-1 record and was named first-team All-SEC, beating out Danny Wuerffel of Florida—the only team to defeat the Vols. In two seasons,



Tennessee top gun Peyton Manning is 18-2 as a starter in two seasons with the Vols.

BOB ROSATO

PEY-DIRT

Manning is 18-2 as a college starter, having passed for 4,095 yards with a .635 completion percentage and a passel of school records.

Now, at nearly 6-foot-6, a weight room-enhanced 218 pounds of angles and muscles—taller and stronger than Archie—and possessed of maturity, a trip-hammer brain for decision-making and a quick-release cannon for an arm, Manning is the prototype drop-back quarterback of the age. As he begins his junior season in Knoxville, he is Tennessee's main rallying point for a passionately long-awaited national championship (the Vols finished second and third in the polls last season), an early favorite for the Heisman Trophy and, if he decides to forego his senior college season, a solid choice to be the No. 1 overall pick in the 1997 NFL Draft.

Archie Manning became a full-fledged icon of the game before he left college. How does the kid compare?

"I can't say I was ever on his level in work ethic, in watching film, breaking down the opponent, studying the game," Archie said. "I'm no coach. I'm just a normal dad watching and hoping his child doesn't get hurt. And I always think disaster's coming. But I don't worry about it anymore because I know he's prepared. I know how much time and hard work he's put into this."

Archie himself came out of tiny Drew, Miss. (pop. 1,700), in the hot, flat delta region, where he used to sleep with a football cradled in his arms. He was the skinny quarterback of a sub-.500 high school team, who at one time was so frail he was embarrassed to swim without a T-shirt. By his senior year at Ole Miss, Manning had lifted the school back to national prominence—and fell in love with the Homecoming queen as well.

*"I think I thrive with it [being Archie Manning's son]. It's not pressure, it's a compliment."
—Peyton Manning*

There were Archie buttons, Archie balloons, Archie burgers and his own song written by a postal clerk to the tune of "Folsom Prison Blues."

Once, when asked about the senior Manning, Tennessee All-America linebacker Steve Kiner further immortalized him by snarling, "Archie Who?" Then Mississippi beat the Vols, 38-0, and the legend contin-

ued; in other words, full "Archie Fever"—spurred primarily by an amazing nationally televised game in which Manning ran and passed for 540 yards in a 33-32 loss to Alabama. A star-crossed, injury-plagued NFL career followed in which Manning played mostly for the pitiful Saints in New Orleans. Busted-up, losing quarterbacks usually are run out of town. It is a credit to Manning Senior's friendliness, class and humanity that he is still easily the most popular athlete in the Big Easy.

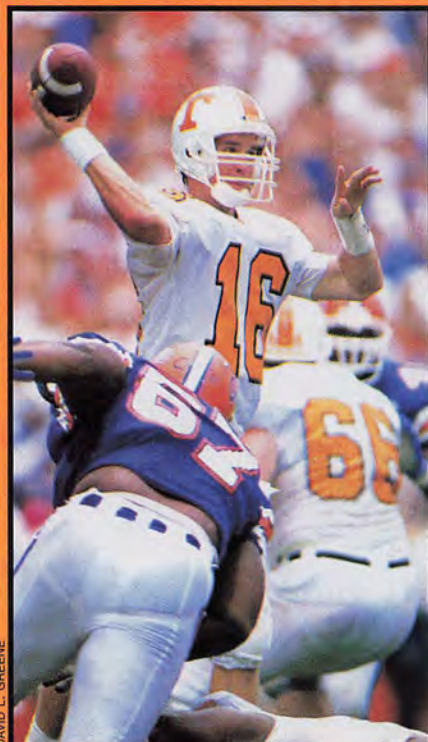
"Dad taught us how to be good people, not good football players," Peyton said.

Growing up in a many-splendored, soaring-ceiling manor house in the Garden District, the Manning offspring have traveled different routes. Indeed, Peyton, fascinated by his father's career, memorized the radio play-by-play of his dad's famous college games, studied the films of his dad in the pros, sought out and talked to all his dad's old teammates and seems to have set out on a plan to become a mirror image.

This is a kid who cut his football teeth playing with rolled up tape in the bowels of the Louisiana Superdome. "We were tots and we ruled that joint," Cooper said.

When Peyton became the jewel in the crown at Newman (the Big Easy's finest private school), he turned his recruitment into a science. For himself. Talk about a thirst for knowledge, Peyton wore coaches out with his inquiries about their campus, course loads, philosophy, game strategy, plays, personnel, recruits and plans for him. "I never had a kid ask as many questions as Peyton," Holtz said.

Usually, coaches wanted Archie or Cooper present—to soften their burden. "Peyton just



DAVID L. GREENE

PASSING RESEMBLANCE

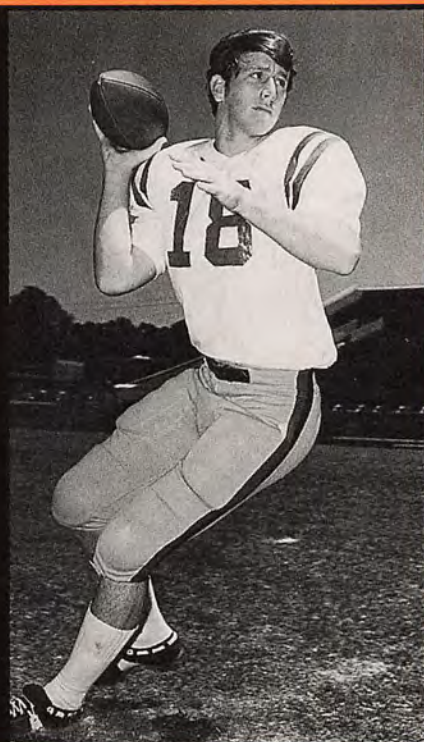
Here's how Peyton Manning's stats after two seasons at Tennessee compare with those of his father Archie, a two-time All-America quarterback at Mississippi (1968-'70) and two-time All Pro with the New Orleans Saints:

PEYTON MANNING

Year	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Pct.	TDs	INTs
1994	144	89	1,141	61.8	11	6
1995	380	244	2,954	64.2	22	4
Totals	524	333	4,095	63.5	33	10

ARCHIE MANNING

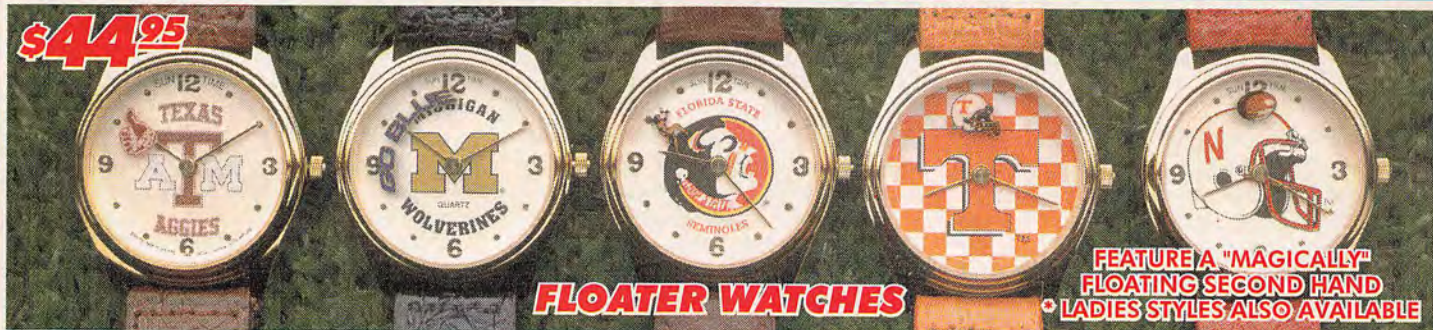
Year	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Pct.	TDs	INTs
1968	263	127	1,510	48.3	8	17
1969	265	154	1,762	58.1	9	6
1970	233	121	1,481	51.9	14	14
Totals	761	395	4,753	51.9	31	37



U. OF MISSISSIPPI

TEAM SPIRIT!!!

\$44⁹⁵



FLOATER WATCHES

FEATURE A "MAGICALLY" FLOATING SECOND HAND
*** LADIES STYLES ALSO AVAILABLE**

\$59⁹⁵



Sun-Glo WATCHES

DIAL ILLUMINATES AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON!

\$59⁹⁵



MUSICAL WATCHES

PLAY SCHOOL FIGHT SONG AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON!

ORDER YOURS TODAY

Sun-Glo WATCHES AVAILABLE:

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Auburn, Cincinnati, Clemson, Colorado, Connecticut, Duke, Florida, Florida State, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Miami, Michigan, Michigan State, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Penn State, Purdue, South Carolina, Syracuse, Tennessee, Texas, Texas A&M, USC, Virginia, Wisconsin

FLOATER WATCHES AVAILABLE:

*Alabama, *Arizona, *Arkansas, *Auburn, Cincinnati, *Clemson, *Colorado, *Connecticut, *Duke, *Florida, *Florida State, *Georgia, *Georgia Tech, *Indiana, *Iowa, *Kansas, *Kansas State, *Kentucky, *Miami, *Michigan, *Michigan State, *Mississippi, Missouri, *Nebraska, *North Carolina, *North Carolina State, *Notre Dame, *Ohio State, *Oklahoma, *Oklahoma State, Pennsylvania, *Penn State, *Purdue, *South Carolina, Syracuse, *Tennessee, *Texas, *Texas A&M, UCLA, USC, *Virginia, Wake Forest, *Wisconsin

MUSICAL WATCHES AVAILABLE:

Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Clemson, Duke, Florida, Florida State, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Miami, Michigan, Michigan State, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oklahoma, Penn State, Purdue, South Carolina, Syracuse, Tennessee, Texas, Texas A&M, USC, Wisconsin

INDICATE WATCH DESIRED BY LISTING SCHOOL AND STYLE (FLOATER, MUSICAL OR Sun-Glo)

WATCH	QTY	COST	SHIPPING & HANDLING \$5.00 PER WATCH	SUB TOTAL
TOTAL AMOUNT OWED				

WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTERCARD, CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, MAIL TO:

CS COMMUNICATIONS
 RT 22 EAST
 ONE SALEM SQUARE, SUITE 201 EAST
 WHITE HOUSE STATION, NJ 08889

OR CALL 1-800-619-4634
 TO ORDER BY PHONE.



SPORTS WATCH OFFER

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ CHECK ☐ MONEY ORDER ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA

CARD # _____

SIGNATURE _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

- ALLOW 3-4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY -
PHOTOCOPIED OR HAND WRITTEN
ORDER FORMS ARE ACCEPTABLE

PEY-DIRT

wasn't impressed by anything," said Cooper, now 21, whose own football career was ended by a spinal injury. "He was like, 'show me,' all the time. I told him, 'Peyton, you just can't act like this to everybody.'"

"I think I knew more about Ron Powlus [the Notre Dame quarterback who was his host on his trip to South Bend] than Holtz did," Peyton said. "Ron told me Notre Dame was a great place, that as a quarterback I'd get protected, we'd win and I should come. Then I told him Holtz promised me I'd play at least one series every game as a freshman. He said, 'Peyton, you like Tennessee a lot, don't you?'"

As it happened, the most Manning knew of Tennessee's strong tradition of offensive linemen, the school's pro-style, sometimes four-wideout, passing attack. But there was more than football. "I wanted to go to a place where I'd be happy even without football," Peyton said.

His brother's career-ending injury at Mississippi (when Peyton was still a high school junior) taught him to prioritize. To honor Cooper, Peyton switched to wearing his brother's No. 18, which also happened to be Archie's Ole Miss number. The injury also probably determined his own college destiny.

"Cooper and I had such fun together in high school," said Peyton, who now wears No. 16 (cornerback DeRon Jenkins wore No. 18 when Peyton arrived at Tennessee). "If he was still playing, I'm sure I'd have gone to Ole Miss to hook up with him again."

But when Peyton didn't—"I'll admit I didn't want the pressure of following dad there. I didn't want to be a celebrity before I ever took a snap," he said—Mississippians were dumbfounded, not to mention furious. Ole Miss was in the doldrums, the coach about to be fired, NCAA probation around the corner. Still, 6,000 angry calls flooded the wire at the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger* and hate mail besieged the Manning family. On the Oxford campus, it didn't help matters when, upon his brother's signing, Cooper wore a Tennessee ballcap and a T-shirt inscribed "Peyton Who?"

"I was just waiting for someone to open their mouth so I could throw a punch," Cooper said. "Peyton made the right choice."

In two years—on occasion Peyton has visited Cooper at Mississippi—feelings have cooled. Still, when the

schools play October 3 in Memphis for the first time since Peyton's enrollment, Archie intends to "make myself scarce." That game, Peyton said, "will be interesting."

The stereotype of the "Monster Sports Parent" seems never to have darkened the door of the Manning household. "We had a rule. If the boys wanted help, they had to come to me. I wasn't going to force football on them," Archie said.

But David Cutcliffe, Tennessee's offensive coordinator, wasn't exactly prepared for his new quarterback's famous father's reaction when he visited the Mannings in New Orleans to go over the Vols' playbook and videos: Archie fell fast asleep.

Then there was Peyton's first varsity huddle—as a fourth-stringer—in Tennessee's opener against UCLA in 1994. "We're going to go down the field and score!" Manning rah-rahed to his teammates who were already getting blitzed 12-0. "Shut the [bleep] up and call the [bleeping] plays," growled junior tackle Jason Layman. The Vols went three downs and out—all running plays—and Peyton retired for the afternoon.

"Nice welcome to college ball, huh?" Peyton said. "I blame that one on Dad. He always told me a quarterback had to take charge and be assertive."

Soon enough. As the Vols' veteran quarterbacks kept falling to injury; as Ten-

nessee's other star freshman, Brannon Stewart, faltered—he would end up transferring to Texas A&M—Manning had to step up. By the fourth game, he was gaining respect even as Fulmer and Cutcliffe limited the offense to what the rookie could handle. That first year Manning threw only 12 passes against Memphis, 14 against Washington State, 15 against Kentucky. "Peyton was so quick to pick up things, by late in the season we were back to being ourselves," Fulmer said.

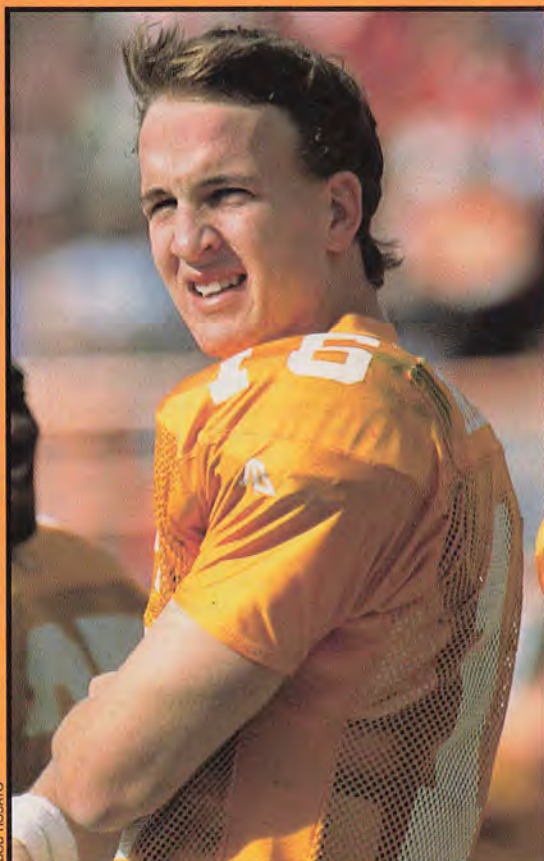
And then last season ... Pey-dirt. Manning completed 26 of 38 passes for 349 yards in a last-second victory over Georgia. He was 23 of 36 for 326 in that rainy collapse (62-37) against Florida. Shouting signals, gesturing, moving his receivers and backs, seeking perfection—"He's about as busy at the line of scrimmage as anybody I've ever seen," Cutcliffe said—Manning was 35 of 46 for 384 against Arkansas, 20 of 29 for 301 as the Vols finally whipped Alabama and 20 of 35 for 182 as Tennessee defeated Ohio State in the Citrus Bowl.

You'd think the son of Archie Manning would somehow, sometime act like being that bothered him once in a while. "Well, no," Peyton said. "Cooper and I talk about it all the time. We're very different. He's so loose, and I'm much more serious, probably too serious. But in different ways we both always loved the attention, being Dad's sons. Cooper bathed in it. I think I thrive with it. It's not pressure, it's a compliment."

"The great players love the arena," Cutcliffe said. "No player works as hard to be good as Peyton Manning. But in a lot of ways he's been a natural. He grew up loving football, loving SEC Saturdays. He knew what it was all about, the sounds, the smells. It's like he watched this thing all his life. Now he's out in his own backyard doing it."

"The most fun was being with the whole family for the Alabama game in Birmingham last fall," Archie said. "Cooper and I were out watching the pregame stuff. Usually, the kickers stroll out there, the receivers sort of saunter out, everybody's going half-speed to get warmed up. Then all of a sudden, we see this maniac in full pads and helmet come sprinting out, slapping guys, screaming, just going nuts. Damn, if it isn't Peyton. I was shocked. 'Dad,' Cooper said. 'This SOB is ready to whip some serious butt!'"

The reaction of Olivia Manning was not recorded. But the men of the family were bonding once again. Woe to the SEC. And this season, Tennessee's middle Manning plans to get even more serious.



Should he opt to forego his senior season, Manning will likely be the first pick overall in the 1997 NFL Draft.

Curry Kirpatrick is a free-lance writer based in Hilton Head, S.C.

EXCLUSIVE

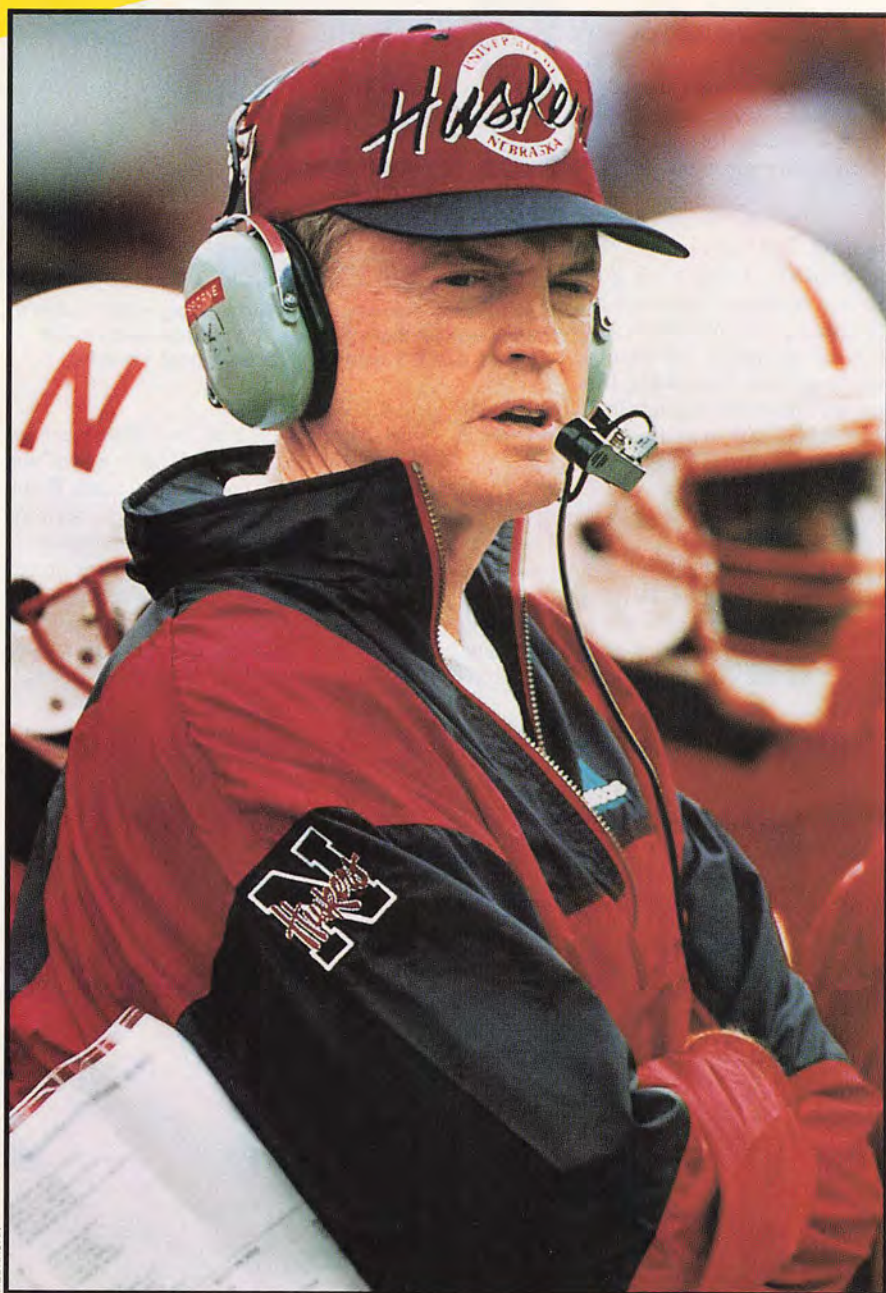
Q&A

BOB GRIESE

GOES ONE-ON-ONE

WITH NEBRASKA COACH

TOM OSBORNE



With his team preparing for its run at an unprecedented third consecutive national championship, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne took the time to sit down and talk with Bob Giese. The exclusive Q&A—which covered everything from last year's 12-0 season to Osborne's feelings about today's athletes, the new Big 12 Conference and his team's chances at a three-peat—follows:

BOB GRIESE: After winning back-to-back national titles, is your pitch to the players any different this year?

TOM OSBORNE: Well, I've never really made any specific pitch. I guess you're always concerned when you've had success that people might get complacent or will focus on the wrong things. You worry that they may start getting more concerned with individual goals rather than team goals. But I think so far the workouts have been really good. [After] six weeks of conditioning and spring ball, I don't see any signs that they are not focused and committed. And I think they do realize that they have the opportunity to do something that hasn't been done before—to win three in a row. Of course, that's a tall order because the odds are always against you. You've got to go out there and win 12 times or whatever.

GRIESE: Do you feel you're finally getting your due as one of the game's all-time great coaches?

OSBORNE: Well, I don't know. I guess the rap against me, in the minds of some people at least, was that I couldn't win the so-called big one and we couldn't win the national championship. I guess that talk has at least died out. I was never particularly hung up on it. I thought we played well enough a couple times to win it, but we just couldn't get it done. I think that part is behind us. But on the other hand, when you do win there's a lot more scrutiny on your program. That's the down side.



Bob Giese with Tom Osborne

GRIESE: *Speaking of your success, I was looking over your record and it's remarkable. You've been the head man at Nebraska for 23 years and have won nine or more games every year. How have you been able to maintain that success?*

OSBORNE: That is kind of unusual. We've just been fortunate enough to avoid the down year. We've just always found kids with a real good work ethic that wanted to continue our tradition. Plus, we've always had good walk-ons every year, which has enabled us to have an injury or two without getting completely depleted at that position.

GRIESE: *I think another often-overlooked part of your success is the fact that your coaching staff remains largely intact.*

OSBORNE: I agree with you there. It gives us continuity. A lot of successful programs will lose two or three coaches a year. We have on average lost one every three years. In recruiting as well as in the day-to-day coaching of your team, that makes a world of difference. That [the lack of turnover on his staff] has been very helpful.

GRIESE: *Are faster—as opposed to bigger—players the key to success on defense these days?*

OSBORNE: That's certainly been the case here. With offenses getting more and more wide open, you need to match their speed. At one time, guys like Terrell Farley at 200 or 205 pounds and Jamel Williams at 205 to 210 pounds would have been defensive backs. Now, they are linebackers who can run a 10.6 or 10.7 in the 100 meters. So the past two years, it's kind of like we've been playing defense with six defensive backs because these linebackers can really run, they can cover man-to-man, plus they're physical enough to play the run.

GRIESE: *As you just mentioned, more teams are going to the wide-open, three-wide receiver sets. Describe your offense and why you choose to continue to play option football instead of throwing the ball like everyone else.*

OSBORNE: I guess the biggest reason we continue to do it is because it's been so successful for us. The biggest difference between our offense and teams like Florida isn't as big as people think. I look at the option play as a pass play. The ball is pitched in the air but there's a lot less risk and, if blocked the right way, there's the same amount of chance for a big play. And I think 20-25 option plays mixed in with 10-12 passes is a lot safer and more effective for us than putting the ball up 35 times. Throwing that many times per game simplifies the defensive coaching job—you can just lay your ears back and rush the passer. With the option, if you have a good stable of

backs and a quarterback with mobility, you can keep the defense guessing.

Do you want to know once and for all how I decided a mobile quarterback and option football were best for us? Back in the 1970s, we had David Humm and Vince Ferragamo, both great passers, and we were successful. But we couldn't beat Oklahoma. So I decided then to fight fire with fire. And it has worked. It's just the best thing for us with the type of weather we have, the type of kids we recruit.

And the more teams go away from the option, the fewer times opposing teams see it—which really helps us. If you see it once a year and you only have four days to prepare for it, then we have a better chance of being successful. I guess sometimes in college football it pays to go against the grain.

GRIESE: *Did you run the option at Hastings (Neb.) College?*

OSBORNE: I was a tall guy. But we did run six, seven or eight options a game. We threw some play-action passes and even a few deep balls. But frankly, I've run the option as a coach both in high school and in college because I feel it works best in this climate.

GRIESE: *Have you ever had a losing season either as a player or a coach?*

OSBORNE: No, I haven't. I came here as a grad assistant in Bob Devaney's first year [1962]. At that time, the team was coming off six straight losing seasons, and Bob came in and started winning. He won nine or 10

games a year until 1967 and 1968, when we went 6-4 both years. And, believe it or not, they were petitioning for his head. Fortunately, he wasn't fired and then we went on to win a couple of national championships in a row [1970, 1971]. Then what does he do? He stepped down and I took over. Talk about a tough act to follow. People around here got used to that level of success, and I knew they'd call for my head if I didn't succeed.



STEPHEN DUNN/ALSPORT USA

Osborne's success is staggering—his team's have never won fewer than nine games in any of his 23 seasons as a head coach.

BACK-TO-BACK-TO-BACK?

Last season, Nebraska became the first school to repeat as national champions since Alabama won back-to-back titles in 1978-'79. The 1994 and '95 Huskers teams were also the first unbeaten, untied consensus back-to-back champions since Oklahoma in 1955-'56. Here's a look at those schools winning consecutive national titles since the *Associated Press* began ranking teams in 1936:

YEARS	SCHOOL	COACH	RECORDS
1940 and '41	Minnesota	Bernie Bierman	8-0-0; 8-0-0
1944 and '45	Army	Earl "Red" Blaik	9-0-0; 9-0-0
1946 and '47	Notre Dame	Frank Leahy	8-0-1; 9-0-0
1955 and '56	Oklahoma	Bud Wilkinson	11-0-0; 10-0-0
1964 and '65	Alabama	Paul "Bear" Bryant	10-0-0; 9-1-1
1970 and '71	Nebraska	Bob Devaney	11-0-1; 13-0
1974 and '75	Oklahoma	Barry Switzer	11-0-0; 11-1-0
1978 and '79	Alabama	Paul "Bear" Bryant	11-1-0; 12-0-0
1994 and '95	Nebraska	Tom Osborne	13-0-0; 12-0-0

THE HOTTEST SPORTS YEARBOOKS EVER!

WHAT'S YOUR GAME...?

- ★ PRO FOOTBALL ★ COLLEGE FOOTBALL
- ★ BASEBALL ★ PRO BASKETBALL
- ★ COLLEGE BASKETBALL

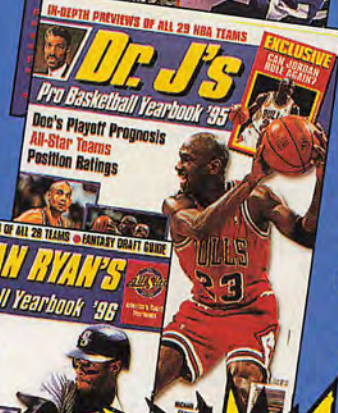
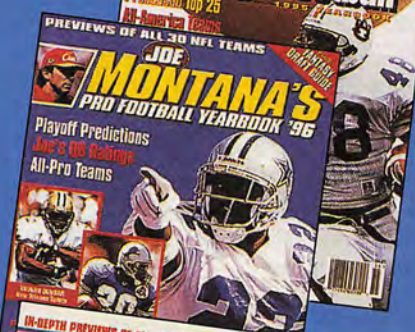
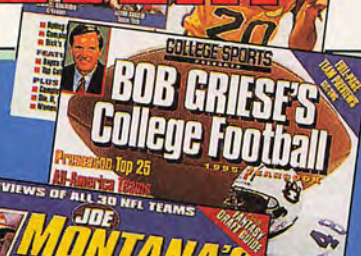
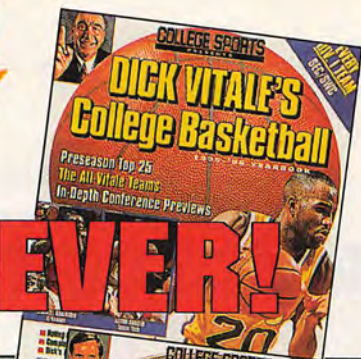


AMERICA'S
SPORTS
YEARBOOKS

Imagine being able to sit down and talk to **Joe Montana** about Pro Football -- get the playoff predictions ... his personal picks for the All-Pro teams! Or to **Nolan Ryan** about Baseball ... **Dick Vitale** about College Basketball ... find out what **Bob Griese** thinks about the next College Football season ... listen in as **Dr. J** gives his no-holds-barred view of the Pro Basketball scene.

Now you don't have to miss a copy.

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE! Regularly \$5.99 a copy on newsstands, we'll send you all five of these spectacular fact-filled Yearbooks (a \$29.95 value) as soon as they are published for just \$19.95.



DON'T TAKE
A CHANCE
ON MISSING
THEM ...
SUBSCRIBE
NOW

**SAVE
33%**

Each big issue will be sent hot off the press, just before the start of the season. To get them delivered right to your door (only \$1.00 each for postage and handling) complete this order-form and mail to COLLEGE SPORTS PO BOX 1982 Danbury, CT 06813-9823.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
CS COMMUNICATIONS

For fastest service call us toll-free at 1-800-722-2346, 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM EST, Monday through Friday.



YEARBOOK SAVINGS CERTIFICATE

☐ YES! Send me all 5 of your Yearbooks -- a \$29.95 newsstand value - for just \$19.95 plus \$5.00 for postage and handling. My payment is enclosed ... or charge my credit card as indicated.

☐ My payment of \$24.95 is enclosed

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CHARGE MY: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

CARD # _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE, PLEASE, FOR CREDIT CARD ORDERS X _____

**SUBSCRIBE
AND SAVE
33%**

CSPN

Collegiate Sports Publishing Network

1996 Top 50 High School Seniors

By Jeff Duva,
Publisher, CSPN

QUARTERBACKS

ROHAN DAVEY, 6-3, 200, Miami Lakes, FL
KENNY KELLY, 6-3, 180, Tampa, FL
ZACK KUSTOCK, 6-3, 185, Orlando Park, IL
TODD MORTENSEN, 6-4, 200, Tempe, AZ
EDMOND STANSBERRY, 6-3, 200, El Paso, TX

RUNNING BACKS

LaVRAR ARRINGTON, 6-3, 225, Pittsburgh, PA
JAMAL LEWIS, 6-3, 230, Atlanta, GA
DARNEL McDONALD, 5-11, 190, Cherry Crk, CO
JASPER SANKS, 6-3, 215, Columbus, GA
JAMAR SHEPPARD, 6-1, 195, San Francisco, CA
ANTOINE WOMACK, 6-0, 200, Hampton, VA

WIDE RECEIVERS

BRUCE BRANCH, 6-1, 178, Richmond, VA
DARRELL JACKSON, 6-1, 175, Tampa, FL
JULIUS McMILLAN, 6-0, 185, Altus, OK
KENYON RAMBO, 6-1, 185, Long Beach, CA
BRIAN SCOTT, 6-3, 200, Darlington, SC
REGGIE WAYNE, 6-1, 175, Marrero, LA
ROBERT WILLIAMS, 6-4, 210, Dallas, TX

TIGHT ENDS

CHRIS BROOKS, 6-4, 235, Newton, TX
MARCUS BRYSON, 6-4, 235, Laurens, SC
ANTOINE HARRIS, 6-4, 225, Los Angeles, CA

OFFENSIVE LINE

DeCOURYE HAMPTON, 6-7, 305, Memphis, TN
JEROME HILDRETH, 6-6, 290, Chicago, IL
JOSH JAKUBOWSKI, 6-6, 318, Schoefield, WI
BRYAN KULA, 6-4, 275, Phoenix, AZ
JOE MAJOR, 6-4, 290, Redmond, WA
TERRENCE METCALF, 6-4, 288, Clarksdale, MS
FRED WEARY, 6-5, 260, Montgomery, AL

DEFENSIVE LINE

DARRYL BRIGHT, 6-5, 230, Tulsa, OK
DORSETT DAVIS, 6-6, 275, Cleveland, MS
CHAR-ROD DORSEY, 6-6, 300, Jacksonville, FL
THOMAS PITTMAN, 6-4, 255, Reserve, LA
MELVIN RICHEY, 6-4, 292, Decatur, GA
TYRONE ROBERTSON, 6-4, 260, Danville, VA
DAVID WARREN, 6-5, 240, Tyler, TX
DE'NARD WHITFIELD, 6-4, 215, Denison, TX

LINEBACKERS

ANDRA DAVIS, 6-3, 220, Live Oak, FL
RON GRAHAM, 6-3, 230, Pittsburgh, PA
DeANGELO LLOYD, 6-6, 225, Charlotte, NC
JASON OTT, 6-4, 235, Cincinnati, OH

DEFENSIVE BACKS

DEON GRANT, 6-4, 195, Augusta, GA
IFE OHALETE, 6-2, 205, Los Alamitos, CA
STANFORD SIMMONS, 6-3, 190, Ashland, AL
MARQ. TUIASOSOPU, 6-2, 210, Woodinville, WA
JOE WALKER, 6-1, 180, Galena, TX

ATHLETES

JASON FRYSSINGER, 6-4, 225, Grosse Isle, MI
TRAVIS MINOR, 6-1, 190, Baton Rouge, LA
ROD PERRY, JR., 5-11, 180, Santa Ana, CA
KYLE VANDEN BONCH, 6-5, 235, Inwood, IA
NATE WRIGHT, JR., 5-10, 175, San Diego, CA



Bob Griese
with
Tom Osborne

GRIESE: What was the key to beating Florida last year in the Fiesta Bowl?

OSBORNE: We looked at a lot of film of them in preparation for the game, and we noticed that teams would have some success running the ball against them early. But Florida would suddenly break out to a 14-point lead and the other team would totally abandon their running game. We were hoping that if our defense was good enough to keep us close that we could keep pounding the ball and that maybe by the fourth quarter we could tire them out. But the way the game unfolded was beyond my wildest dreams. I was totally surprised.

GRIESE: You've said before that this was the best team you've ever coached. Why?

OSBORNE: They are definitely the best team I've ever coached. They went through 12 games and didn't ever have a close call.

GRIESE: How are players in the 1990s different from players of years past? Have you had to make any adjustments in the way you coach to adapt to the modern-day player?

OSBORNE: The dysfunctional family and the breakdown of the family structure are the biggest changes I've seen in my time as a coach. A lot of the things that you counted on the parents taking care of now fall into the lap of the high school coach or the college coach. So many young people come to your program these days with excess baggage, so you spend more time dealing with off-the-field personal problems than in years past.

GRIESE: Did the pressures of this past season make you consider how much longer you want to keep coaching?

OSBORNE: Last season was a mixed bag. The attitude of the players and the cohesiveness of the team were really gratifying. It was so much fun coaching these guys. Off the field, it was horrible. Some of the criticism we received was probably justified, but a lot was made by individuals that don't know our players. A lot of the things that were said or written were simply not true.

GRIESE: If you had it to do over again, is there anything that you would change about your handling of the Lawrence Phillips situation?

OSBORNE: I don't think so. The obvious question is whether I should have reinstated Lawrence or not. And the bottom line is that I couldn't bring myself to taking football totally away from him knowing what I know about what happened and how it happened. Kicking him off the team might have made me look better in the eyes of some people, but I couldn't sacrifice a kid to make myself look better.

GRIESE: What are your thoughts on the birth of the Big 12?

OSBORNE: I originally thought it would simply be four schools from the Southwest Conference joining the Big Eight. But a lot of Southwest Conference thinking is being imposed on all of us. All along, we've lived by the NCAA rules as far as academic requirements, but now we have a group of people who want to be even more restrictive. We'll be fine playing each other within the league. But with these more restrictive entrance requirements, I don't know if we'll be able to compete down the road against the Florida States, Floridas, Ohio States and other teams around the country that will take partial qualifiers.

Now there's even some talk of not allowing non-qualifiers in the Big 12 ever, of not allowing them in even if they go to a junior college and get eligible. And there's a movement among some school presidents to never, ever allow a junior college player to play in the Big 12. That's wrong in my eyes because you're taking away a youngster's opportunity to get an education.

GRIESE: Do you like the concept of playing a Big 12 title game?

OSBORNE: The coaches voted against it. The reason being that most years with the teams that we have in our conference, there will be two teams in the [bowl] alliance which means much more revenue for the Big 12. But now if you play in that championship game and lose so late in the year, one team could be knocked out of the alliance.

GRIESE: What do you like/dislike most about coaching?

OSBORNE: I like the variety. It's a little less stereotypical than pro football. You see a lot more different offensive and defensive systems than you see at the pro level. And I also enjoy dealing with young people. You have a better chance of making an impact on a kid in college because when they go to the pros they quickly get set in their ways.

One thing I don't like is the great deal of scrutiny these kids come under. They're 18 or 19 years old and they're treated the same as 35-year-old pros. And this whole business of sports agents is tough, really tough and must be addressed now.

GRIESE: Can the 1996 team make history and win a third straight national championship?

OSBORNE: I think we have a chance. Defensively, we can be great. We just need to find another cornerback that can play well. The kicking game is in better shape than this time last year because we know what Kris [Brown] can do. And the offensive line should be stable with the guys we have coming back. The question obviously is at quarterback, and I think we'll be fine there. Scott Frost is a great athlete. He's 6-3, 220 pounds and runs a 4.5 in the 40. And Matt Turman is also back. He's a steady guy that knows the offense and is a pretty decent passer. ☐

CSPN

Collegiate Sports Publishing Network

"If you follow college football, CSPN's recruiting publication is a must!"

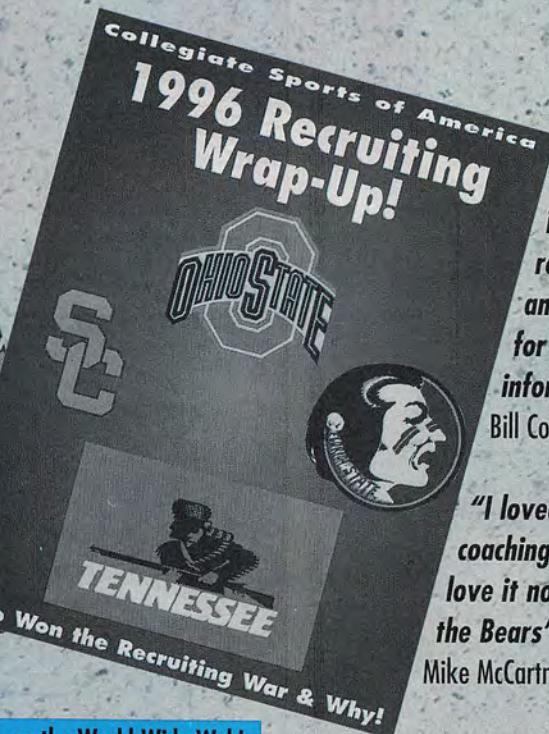
Joe Hubbard,
USC Football

"One of the most informative, accurate and professional recruiting magazines available today."

Jim Miceli, Maryland
Football

"CSPN is our bible for college football recruiting!"

Jerry Vailancourt, ESPN



"I thoroughly enjoy your recruiting magazine as a recruiting tool and an excellent source for high school football information."

Bill Conley, Ohio State

"I loved it when I was coaching at CU and I still love it now that I'm with the Bears"

Mike McCartney, Chicago Bears

Check out our Home Page on the World Wide Web!
<http://www.cspn.com>

8 Exciting & Information-Packed Issues for 1996-97:

1996-97 Magazine Package

#1 Pre-Season Issue (August)

#2 Pre-Signing Date Issue (Jan.)

#3 Recruiting Re-Cap Issue (March)

Plus a BONUS Report on your Favorite College!

1996-97 Newsletter & Magazine Package

All the Above Plus...

#1 October - Early Verbals, Pre-Season Update & More!

#2 November - TOP JUCO Report & Verbal Updates

#3 December - Recruiting Kickoff

#4 January - Update on the Nation's Top Prospects

CSPN follows the nation's top 1,500 high school and JUCO prospects from pre-season to signing day, complete with All-America and All-Regional selection, player profiles, photos, college choices and much more!

For HOT National Recruiting News Call:

1-900-896-3900

only \$1.59 per minute

Verbals • Visits • College Rankings
Strong Leanings and much more!

Phone Orders Call: 1-800-600-7518

Yes, please send me your 1996-97 Recruiting Package and my FREE Bonus Report on my favorite college!

_____ Send me your 1996-97 Magazine Package and FREE Bonus Report for only \$59.00

_____ Send me your complete Magazine and Newsletter Package (8 issues in all) for only \$69.00

Name: _____ Favorite College: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make payment payable to:

CSA - 22647 Ventura Blvd., #359 • Woodland Hills, CA 91364

P KEEPING PACE

Ohio State is Glad to Have Star Lineman Orlando Pace Back. . . At Least For One More Year

By **BRUCE HOOLEY**

He is a large man, but not a loud man. An intimidating player who lets his actions speak for themselves. Yet while his on-field accomplishments scream for attention, raising anything other than a whisper from Ohio State left tackle Orlando Pace is more challenging than beating his block.

And since the 6-foot-6, 320-pound Pace allowed only one quarterback sack last season, that's plenty challenging.

"Off the field, Orlando is very laid back," OSU coach John Cooper said. "I'd say he's soft-spoken, mild-mannered, very easygoing. On the field, he's completely different, though. He's got a nasty streak. He's competitive. He'll get after you pretty good."

That hardly comes as a revelation to opposing coaches, who last season watched Pace spring tailback Eddie George for the Heisman Trophy, as well as trigger a host of school passing records via quarterback Bobby Hoying and flanker Terry Glenn.

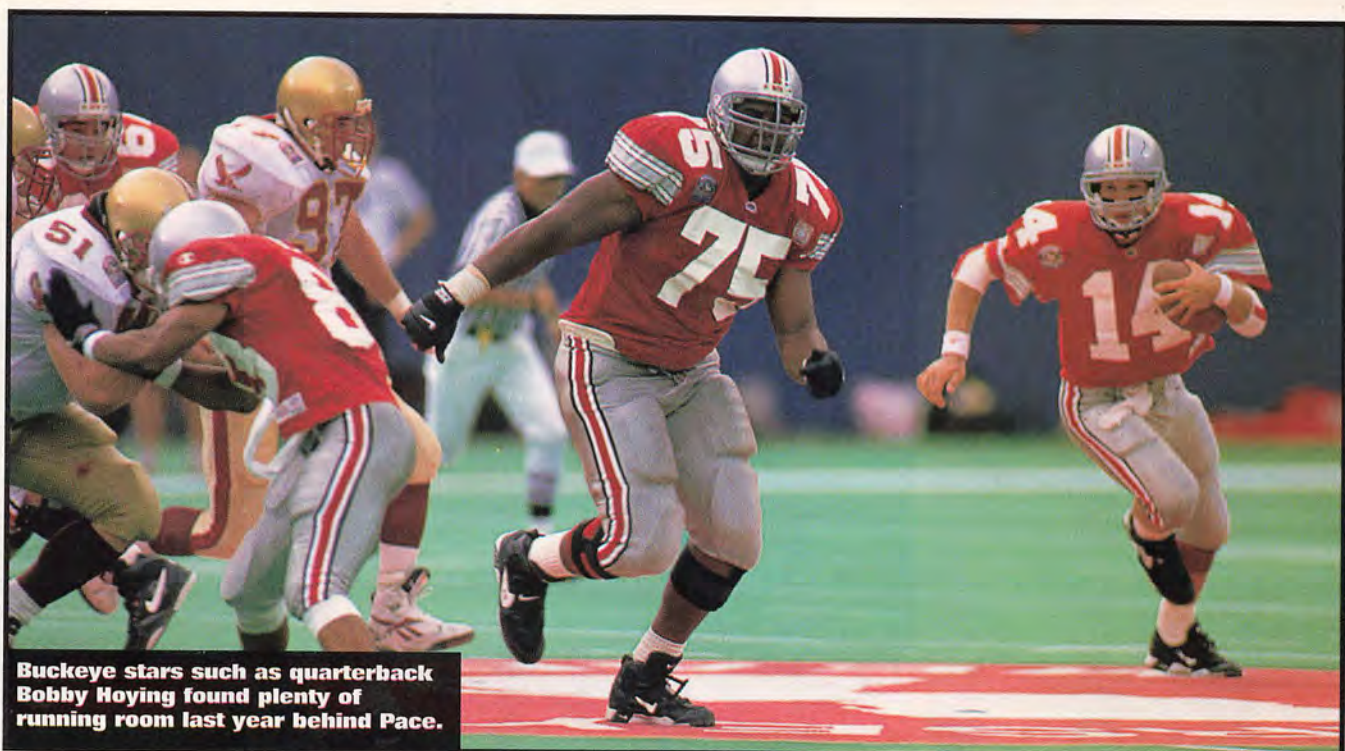
The departure of those players would cripple most programs, but the Buckeyes seem more grateful they've retained Pace than they are broken up over the loss of their big three. Pace toyed with the notion of challenging the NFL's prohibition against true sophomores declaring for the draft—the league does not allow its teams to draft a player until three years after the player's high school class has graduated—but then decided to return for his junior season.

"I was serious about it," said Pace of his flirtation with the pros. "But then I decided I



RUDY WINSTON/SCHWARTZMAN SPORTS

Lombardi Trophy winner Orlando Pace's return to Ohio State is, for all purposes, a one-year NFL detour.



Buckeye stars such as quarterback Bobby Hoying found plenty of running room last year behind Pace.

ALLEN KEE/BOB ROSATO SPORT PHOTOGRAPHY

wanted to come back and try to win the Big Ten and get to the Rose Bowl. Plus, I'd like to make All America again, win the Outland Trophy and win the Lombardi Trophy again."

The first sophomore ever to win the Lombardi, Pace and the Buckeyes had a Rose Bowl berth locked up until Tim Biakabutuka and Michigan derailed them in the regular-season finale. Pace is a virtual certainty to follow this season by becoming the ninth OSU player since 1992 to declare early for the NFL.

"Let's be realistic," said offensive coordinator Joe Hollis. "We have him for one more year."

Cooper, who cringes over the premature loss of players like Dan Wilkinson, Robert Smith and Glenn, takes a different view of Pace's probable departure.

"I've told Orlando, 'If you have the kind of year we expect you to have, then go [to the NFL].'" Cooper said. "I could see Orlando, if he has the kind of year we expect, being the No. 1 pick overall in next year's draft. We've had quite a few first-rounders since I've been here, including two this past spring and I don't see anybody that's jumped out at me like Orlando Pace does."

Pace doesn't command attention with some garish tattoo, an earring or a mouthful of self-promotion. His style is putting in a spectacular, albeit quiet, day's work.

Quiet, until the films are analyzed, anyway.

"We'd sit in meetings and actually laugh sometimes watching what he did to other teams," Hoying said. "It was almost funny to see how much he dominated. Orlando just absolutely destroyed

people on a regular basis."

"He's the most amazing athlete I've ever seen on the offensive line," George added. "If you want a tough yard, just run behind Orlando. That's what we did all [last] season."

Expect more of the same this year, with Ohio State having experimented throughout the spring with alignments aimed at getting even more from Pace's abilities than it did in 1995. And we're not just talking offensive alignments. Last season, Pace played on the defensive goal line (two solo tackles) and field goal-block units (one block).

"Whatever they want me to do, I'm ready for it," Pace said. "I want to go out there and play even better this season. I don't want there to be any letdown from last year."

That's a frightening prospect for opposing coaches.

"In my eight seasons at Illinois, he and Tony Mandarich have been the two most

dominant offensive linemen we've played," Illinois coach Lou Tepper said of Pace. "It's rare that an offensive lineman can make you change a game plan."

Pace's ability has also caused Ohio State officials to scramble, brainstorming over the summer to come up with some sort of promotional campaign to cause Heisman voters to give him consideration for that award.

"If it really went to the best football player, period, then Orlando would have as good a chance as anybody," Cooper said.

Pace has never graded below the level Ohio State's coaches characterize as acceptable for any one game of his career, yet he still isn't satisfied.

"One of the things I need to do more of this year is be a leader," Pace said. "I'm not very vocal. That's just not my style. But I can lead by my actions. I think if guys see me working hard, they'll be willing to work hard, too."

As if his actions don't already speak loudly enough.

"If you could diagram a guy for the offensive tackle position, you would diagram Orlando," Hollis said. "You'd want a guy 6-6, 320, with great quickness and technique and unbelievable strength."

"You'd want a guy with football savvy, someone who once you explained something, he'd have it. You'd want someone who prepares himself well and understands that offensive tempo is set by the offensive line."

"Orlando has all those qualities. That's why we're glad we have him back."

Bruce Hooley covers the Buckeyes for the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

NEXT IN LINE?

After this season, Buckeyes' OT Orlando Pace is a virtual certainty to become the ninth Ohio State player since 1992 to declare early for the NFL Draft. The others before him:

POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	WHEN DRAFTED
DE	Alonzo Spellman	1992	1st round, Chicago
RB	Robert Smith	1993	1st round, Minnesota
SS	Roger Harper	1993	2nd round, Atlanta
DT	Dan Wilkinson	1994	1st overall pick, Cincinnati
OT	Korey Stringer	1995	1st round, Minnesota
LB	Craig Powell	1995	1st round, Cleveland
LB	Lorenzo Styles	1995	3rd round, Atlanta
WR	Terry Glenn	1996	1st round, New England

IN NO RUSH



Offensive linemen are an obscure lot. Relegated to the bottom of the totem pole of popularity, they get about as much notice as the curbs along Hollywood's Walk of Fame. And if it's possible for someone to be more anonymous, it would have to be an offensive lineman's little brother. Imagine the oppressive obscurity—it must be humbling to be overshadowed by an older sibling who is rarely exposed to the spotlight long enough even to cast a shadow.

Which makes it hard to explain how in the world Cornell Brown has become so popular in Buffalo. He's the baby brother of Bills offensive guard Ruben Brown—a first-round draft pick out of Pittsburgh in 1995. But walk into Wegman's on Elmwood Avenue and mention Cornell and chances are the conversation will turn to Big Rube's baby bro and not the ivy-trimmed institution three hours to the Southeast.

"Everyone in Buffalo knows Cornell Brown," Ruben said. "He may not play for the

**The NFL Must
Wait for College
Football's Premier
Pass Rusher—
Virginia Tech's
Cornell Brown
By DAVID
SEIGERMAN**

Exposed!

Sports service scams!

Rankings of the Top Late Telephone Services.
The truth about monitors.
Consensus service explanation.
Newsletters vs. telephone services.
How to win on your own.
The pros and the cons of 900 numbers.

Are you overwhelmed by all the sports service ads every year?

Don't be! Get the nation's most comprehensive, detailed report on the good, the bad, and the ugly of the sports handicapping industry all in one guide.

The **FOOTBALL BETTING GUIDE** is the one essential tool for all gridiron bettors. It will take you behind the scenes and show you the real performances of over 100 of the most prominent sports services throughout America — complete with profiles on their records, reputations, owners, the public's comments and countless other insights that will guide you skillfully toward a successful season. This review is jam packed with vital information that will enable you to distinguish the legitimate sports services from the disreputable ones.

This seventh big annual edition will lay out for you all the inside information about who's on top and who's a flop in the handicapping world, all for only \$3.95.

Don't make another play without reading the **FOOTBALL BETTING GUIDE**. It's your key to a winning season!

Call to order toll free: **800-400-8050**

**CALL TOLL FREE 800-400-8050!
OR CLIP AND MAIL THE COUPON TODAY!**

Mail to: **FOOTBALL BETTING GUIDE**
4102 E. 7th Street, Long Beach, CA 90804

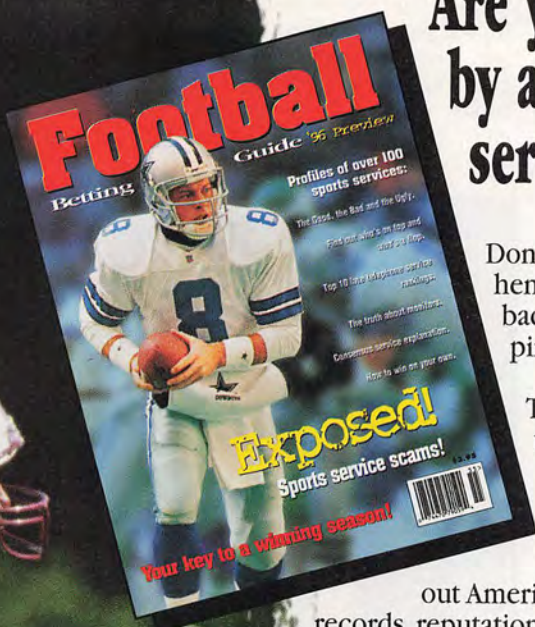
Yes! Please send me a copy of the 1996 **FOOTBALL BETTING GUIDE**. Enclosed is my check for \$3.95, plus \$2.00 S & H.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE, ZIP _____



IN NO RUSH

Buffalo Bills, but if you came up here and heard people talk, you'd think that he did. I brag on him all the time."

Not many collegians have a 300-pound public relations firm for a brother, but then Cornell Brown really doesn't need much help getting his name out—not on the college scene, anyway. He enters his senior season at Virginia Tech as the defending Big East Defensive Player of the Year and will make a run at the national equivalent this fall. He's a 6-foot-2, 246-pound Housing, Interior Design and Resource Management major, but the time he spends as Tech's terrorizing defensive end deserves enough credit to earn Brown a degree in Promotions. Brown grabs plenty of attention and quarterbacks—each with equal ease—gaining notoriety by the sackful.

"All the attention is great, but I still want to prove I deserve it, that I'm no fluke and I belong at the top," said Brown, whose 28 career sacks rank second on Tech's all-time list, 18 behind another Buffalo favorite, Bruce Smith.

More and more these days around Blacksburg, Va., the names Brown and Smith are mentioned in tandem. And it's not just some Hokie comparison. Brown displays a knack for dominating games, much like Smith and . . . "Lawrence Taylor," in Tech coach Frank Beamer's estimation.

"He's a guy that makes a difference on your football team. We had an excellent defense last year, and one of the main reasons we did was Cornell Brown," Beamer said. "Cornell is involved in a lot of big plays and he does things people notice—he's wrapped around the quarterback a lot."

Brown performed more wrap jobs last fall than a Macy's customer service rep at Christmas—14 of them in 1995, to be precise. Brown was the roundhouse that punctuated Tech's body-blow defense, a relentless unit that led all Division I-A teams by yielding only 77.4 rushing yards per game and ranked fifth by allowing just 14.1 points per outing. Teams could not run against a Hokies defensive front that had four players among the team's top seven tacklers. Forced into many third-and-long situations, opposing quarterbacks felt as vulnerable as the local multiplex popcorn vendor with Roger Ebert bearing down.

"He's a heck of a player, a natural, God-given talent," West Virginia coach Don Nehlen said. "The stuff he does I don't think

football coaches can teach."

Or defend against. Nehlen's quarterbacks were sacked three times by Brown, one of his three hat tricks last season. Navy and Syracuse, with one of the most elusive quarterbacks in the country in Donovan McNabb, were the other victims.

The two most memorable sacks, though, came on consecutive possessions against arch-rival Virginia. The Cavaliers led 29-20 midway through the fourth quarter and faced a third down on their 33-yard line. Brown promptly nailed Mike Groh for a loss, forcing a punt that led to a Hokies field goal. On Virginia's subsequent possession, Brown dumped Groh for another third-down sack. The Hokies got the ball back



Cornell Brown's 28 sacks rank him second on Virginia Tech's all-time sack list, 18 behind Bruce Smith.

and proceeded to score the go-ahead touchdown with 47 seconds to play.

A 65-yard interception return by Antonio Banks on the game's final play sealed Tech's 36-29 win. And guess who was bearing down on Groh during that final pass.

"I looked around in the crowd and saw everybody in the stands jumping up and down and screaming, and my teammates were so excited," Brown recalled. "To see the excitement on everybody's face is what really excites me. It shows the sacrifices we make have paid off."

Brown could have cashed in on those sacrifices after his breakthrough junior season. Instead of declaring early for the NFL draft, however, Brown elected to return to

campus—a career path forged by some of Ruben's best lead-blocking.

"It took him awhile to decide," said Ruben, Cornell's sounding board during a post-Sugar Bowl visit that was more than the usual sibling-rivalry Sega-fest. "He wanted to leave and, honestly, he's ready to leave. He's done everything he could possibly do except win Player of the Year honors, and I think he's ready for the pros right now. But he's doing what he's supposed to do."

"I got my degree in college, and I want him to get his or at least be close enough so it's not a big deal when he wants to go back and get it."

If making the decision was tough on Brown, announcing it was going to be fun. You don't beat an offensive lineman by being predictable, and, as his style dictates, you don't make headlines by being conventional. Bucking the trend of leaving early wasn't distinctive enough; Brown waited until deadline day to announce his intentions.

"You've got to keep people on their toes, make them expect the unexpected," said Brown, who is nothing if not consistent in his unpredictability. As a senior at E.C. Glass High in Lynchburg, Va., Brown scheduled a press conference to announce his college choice. It was national signing day, and media members from across the state gathered to hear either "Virginia" or "Virginia Tech" roll from the lips of the player who'd led his team to consecutive state championship games.

At 11 o'clock D-Day morning, Brown told Glass coach Bo Henson his decision. Two-and-a-half hours later, Henson was shocked to listen as Brown announced he would go to the University . . . of . . . Virginia . . . **TECH.**

"It went from Virginia at 11 to Virginia Tech at 1:30," Henson said. "He does everything with a smile on his face, so I should've expected something. It really wouldn't have surprised anyone if he would have gone for Penn State."

Beamer, for one, couldn't possibly have been more surprised—or elated. He and his staff waited in his office at Tech, 100 miles from the announcement that would eventually help lead his team to Big East title and the second 10-win season in school history.

"Of course, we couldn't be there, but we arranged to have someone call us immediately," Beamer said. "We didn't know what he was thinking, up until he walked into that press conference and announced it. Let's say we had all of our fingers crossed."

Beamer's first wish was granted in typical Cornell Brown dramatic fashion, as was his second when Brown announced he'd finish school. Beamer's third and final wish is the same one Brown has for his senior season.

"I am so excited about this year," Brown said. "I expect myself to do better and the team to continue to get better. I hope we're all able to take the next step together."

"Hey, I'm a senior. This is my last chance to do something special at Virginia Tech." □

ALLEN KEE/BOB ROSANTO SPORT PHOTOGRAPHY

These publications are the season ticket to your favorite college team

Now you can follow your favorite college team no matter where you live. Every publication listed provides player features, game recaps, opponent previews, recruiting updates and much, much more. Get your season ticket delivered to your door. Order your subscription today!



- | | |
|--|--|
| 01. ALABAMA - 'Bama, Inside the Crimson Tide
10 magazines, 14 newsletters, \$35 | 29. MICHIGAN STATE - The Spartan 18 issues, \$32.95 |
| 02. ARIZONA - Cat Tracks 33 issues, \$49 | 30. MISSISSIPPI - The Ole Miss Spirit 32 issues, \$40 |
| 03. ARKANSAS - Hawgs Illustrated 19 issues, \$44.90 | 31. MISSISSIPPI STATE - Dawgs Bite 38 issues, \$30 |
| 04. AUBURN - Inside the Auburn Tigers
10 magazines, 11 newsletters, \$30 | 32. MISSOURI - Inside Mizzou Sports 24 issues, \$37 |
| 05. BOSTON COLLEGE - Eagle Action 12 issues, \$34.95 | 33. NEBRASKA - Huskers Illustrated 17 issues, \$42.90 |
| 06. BYU - Cougar Sports Magazine 18 issues, \$29.95 | 34. NORTH CAROLINA - Carolina Blue 40 issues, \$39.95 |
| 07. CINCINNATI - Bearcat Sports Digest 20 issues, \$32.95 | 35. NORTH CAROLINA ST. - The Wolfpacker 18 issues, \$29.95 |
| 08. CENTRAL FLORIDA - Into the Knights 11 issues, \$20 | 36. NOTRE DAME - Blue & Gold 20 issues, \$37.95 |
| 09. COLORADO - Buffalo Sports News 20 issues, \$35.95 | 37. OHIO STATE - Buckeye Sports Bulletin 30 issues, \$45 |
| 10. CONNECTICUT - Husky Blue & White 14 issues, \$32.50 | 38. OKLAHOMA - Sooners Illustrated 17 issues, \$42.90 |
| 11. DUKE - Blue Devil Weekly 25 issues, \$31.95 | 39. OKLAHOMA STATE - O State Sports Report 16 issues, \$34.90 |
| 12. EAST CAROLINA - Pirate's Chest 20 issues, \$25 | 40. OREGON - Fighting Ducks Review 32 issues, \$59.95 |
| 13. FLORIDA - Gator Bait 32 issues, 2 previews, \$47 | 41. PENN STATE - Blue White Illustrated 28 issues, \$42 |
| 14. FLORIDA STATE - Osceola 34 issues, \$48 | 42. PURDUE - Gold & Black Illustrated 26 issues, \$35.95 |
| 15. GEORGIA - The Georgia Bulldog Magazine 30 issues, \$30 | 43. SOUTH CAROLINA - Spurs & Feathers 38 issues, \$32 |
| 16. GEORGIA TECH - The Sting 13 issues, \$21.95 | 44. SYRACUSE - The Big Orange 24 issues, \$40 |
| 17. ILLINOIS - Fighting Illini 18 issues, \$32.95 | 45. TENNESSEE - Rocky Top News 33 issues, \$39.95 |
| 18. INDIANA - Inside Indiana 26 issues, \$36.95 | 46. TENNESSEE - Volunteers Magazine 25 issues, 2 guides, \$29.97 |
| 19. IOWA - Voice of the Hawkeyes 25 issues, \$42.90 | 47. TEXAS - Horns Illustrated 20 issues, \$37.95 |
| 20. IOWA STATE - Cyclone Illustrated 25 issues, \$38.95 | 48. TEXAS A&M - Aggies Illustrated 17 issues, \$42.90 |
| 21. KANSAS - Jayhawk Insider 24 issues, \$37 | 49. TEXAS TECH - Red Raider Sports 16 issues, \$34.90 |
| 22. KANSAS STATE - Purple Pride 24 issues, \$37 | 50. UCLA - UCLA Scorecard 18 issues, \$43.95 |
| 23. KENTUCKY - Cats' Pause 35 issues, \$47.50 | 51. USC - USC Report 18 issues, \$43.95 |
| 24. LSU - Tiger Rag 34 issues, 2 previews, \$48 | 52. VIRGINIA - Cavalier Corner 12 issues, \$24.95 |
| 25. LOUISVILLE - The Scorecard 32 issues, \$39.95 | 53. VIRGINIA TECH - The Hokie Huddler 33 issues, \$34.95 |
| 26. MARYLAND - Terrapin Times 12 issues, \$39.95 | 54. WAKE FOREST - Gold Rush 16 issues, \$24.95 |
| 27. MIAMI - Cane Sport 21 issues, \$34 | 55. WASHINGTON - Sports Washington 17 issues, \$34.95 |
| 28. MICHIGAN - The Wolverine 25 issues, \$39.95 | 56. WASHINGTON ST. - The Coug 17 issues, \$34.95 |
| | 57. WEST VIRGINIA - Blue & Gold News 32 issues, \$32.95 |

CALL NOW 1-800-276-8401

Number and Name of Publication: No.

Name:

Address:

Amount Enclosed: \$

City:

☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

State: Zip: -

Card No.:

Phone:

Exp. Date:

Mail to: CSPA SUBSCRIPTIONS, P.O. Box 692, Holmes, PA 19043-0692

BGF



OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

WARRICK DUNN, RB, FLORIDA STATE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

ANTHONY SIMMONS, LB, CLEMSON

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR:

PETER WARRICK, WR, FLORIDA STATE

FSU BACK STILL NOT DUNN

To hear Warrick Dunn rationalize his decision to stay at Florida State for his senior year is like listening to people explain why they put cream in their morning coffee. It wasn't a big deal, just something that had to be Dunn . . . er, done.

"I can't say it was a hard decision. It didn't take me long at all," said Dunn, who set FSU's single-season rushing record last season (1,242 yards) and became the first Seminole in school history to break the 1,000-yard rushing mark twice in a career. "I never thought I was going to leave in the first place, but I just wanted to be sure."

So, he listened as countless family members, friends, teammates, current NFL players, coaches and even strangers pleaded their cases as to why he should stay or why he should go. But, in the end, only one per-

son really played a big part in his decision.

"I couldn't worry about anything," Dunn said. "I wanted to make the right decision for Warrick, not for my family."

Dunn's career at Florida State has been well chronicled. His mother, Betty, a Baton Rouge, La., police officer, was shot and killed while off duty just two nights after Warrick's 18th birthday. Not long afterwards, he decided to attend Florida State, rooming with quarterback Charlie Ward at the behest of former NFL quarterback Doug Williams, a friend of Dunn's mother. Ward went on to win the Heisman Trophy and direct a national championship run that season, with Dunn playing a pivotal role (511 rushing yards, 357 receiving yards, 10 TDs). In fact, it was as a freshman that Dunn turned in his most memorable play as a Seminole, a 79-yard third-down reception from Ward that helped seal FSU's 33-21 win over Florida in Gainesville.

Now, it's Dunn's turn to play Heisman favorite, although the chance to join his former roommate as the winner of college football's most prestigious award didn't enter into his decision to come back.

"I've already got a national championship, so I hope I can help my teammates win one," Dunn said. "I'm not looking for any personal goals."

Even so, it's hard to overlook Dunn's achievements. If he isn't already the best running back in FSU history, then it should be official by the end of the season. Dunn currently ranks third on the Seminoles' all-time rushing list, 174 yards behind Amp Lee and 990 behind Greg Allen.

Dunn's size (5-foot-9, 178 pounds) allows him to hide behind blockers, and his sprinter's speed makes him almost impossible to catch in the open field. This spring, Dunn qualified for the 100-meter dash in the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

"Track season's fun and it also helps my speed," he said. "I'm starting to get back to the old Warrick."

And FSU opponents are starting to sweat.

—Marc Oliver

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. FLORIDA STATE

2. CLEMSON

3. NORTH CAROLINA

4. VIRGINIA

5. GEORGIA TECH

6. MARYLAND

7. NORTH CAROLINA STATE

8. DUKE

9. WAKE FOREST

ALL-ACC TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
QB	THAD BUSBY	Jr.	6-3/220	FLORIDA STATE
RB	WARRICK DUNN	Sr.	5-9/178	FLORIDA STATE
RB	LEON JOHNSON	Sr.	6-1/210	NORTH CAROLINA
WR	ANDRE COOPER	Sr.	6-2/194	FLORIDA STATE
WR	E.G. GREEN	Jr.	5-11/189	FLORIDA STATE
TE	FREDDIE JONES	Sr.	6-5/250	NORTH CAROLINA
OL	DOUG MARSIGLI	Sr.	6-5/290	WAKE FOREST
OL	JEREMY RALEY	Sr.	6-3/270	VIRGINIA
OL	WALTER JONES	Jr.	6-5/290	FLORIDA STATE
OL	CURTIS MCGEE	Sr.	6-5/285	GEORGIA TECH
OL	JEFF SATURDAY	Jr.	6-3/265	NORTH CAROLINA

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
DL	GREG ELLIS	Jr.	6-6/250	NORTH CAROLINA
DL	ERIC OGBOGU	Jr.	6-4/245	MARYLAND
DL	TODD WHITE	Sr.	6-2/265	VIRGINIA
DL	REINARD WILSON	Sr.	6-2/245	FLORIDA STATE
LB	ANTHONY SIMMONS	Soph.	6-1/213	CLEMSON
LB	BRIAN SIMMONS	Jr.	6-4/220	NORTH CAROLINA
LB	DARYL BUSH	Jr.	6-2/230	FLORIDA STATE
DB	ANDREAL JOHNSON	Sr.	5-10/170	MARYLAND
DB	RONDE BARBER	Jr.	5-10/189	VIRGINIA
DB	NATHAN PERRYMAN	Sr.	5-9/180	GEORGIA TECH
DB	ANTHONY POINDEXTER	Soph.	6-1/202	VIRGINIA

SPECIAL TEAMS

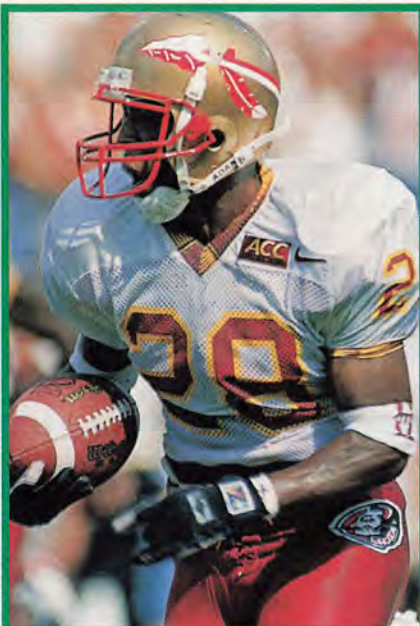
POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
PK	RAFAEL GARCIA	Sr.	5-10/194	VIRGINIA
P	WILL BRICE	Sr.	6-5/204	VIRGINIA
RS	TINK BARBER	Sr.	5-10/195	VIRGINIA

3 BIGGEST GAMES

1. CLEMSON AT NORTH CAROLINA, AUG. 31: SECOND PLACE IN THE ACC COULD BE UP FOR GRABS IN THIS GAME, EVEN IF IT IS BEING PLAYED IN THE SUMMER.

2. VIRGINIA AT FLORIDA STATE, OCT. 26: LAST YEAR'S CONTEST, WHICH ENDED WITH FSU'S WARRICK DUNN INCHES SHORT OF THE GOAL LINE AND UVA ON TOP, MAY HAVE BEEN THE GAME OF THE YEAR.

3. FLORIDA AT FLORIDA STATE, NOV. 30: THE SUNSHINE STATE'S GAME OF THE YEAR IS NO LONGER FSU-MIAMI (FLA.).



Florida State senior Warrick Dunn has averaged an amazing 7.2 yards per carry throughout his career.

CLEMSON



RAYMOND PRIESTER-RB

DOUG PENNINGER/ALSPORT USA

By CRAIG ELLENPORT

How could so much good have been wiped away so quickly? The Clemson Tigers entered the Gator Bowl on New Year's Day looking very evenly matched with their opponent, Syracuse. Both teams came in with identical 8-3 records, had good defenses, strong rushing attacks and an exciting, young quarterback. They even dressed alike, decked out in orange.

But the Gator Bowl result—a 41-0 Syracuse win that wasn't even that close—left the Tigers with more to prove.

"We played so poorly in every phase that it would be hard to put a tremendous amount of stock into it," Clemson head coach Tommy West said. "I'm not going to let the bowl game overshadow what was accomplished in an 8-3 season."

Fair enough, especially since the '95 season—West's second as Clemson head coach—produced three more wins than the previous campaign. Heck, another upswing like that and the Tigers would be perfect. While that may be asking a lot, Clemson does return enough talent to challenge for the number two spot in the ACC behind Florida State.

OFFENSE: The Tigers' main goal on offense last year was to be more balanced—and that's still the goal. There's nothing wrong with Clemson's rushing attack. It ranked fourth in the nation (259.5 yards per game) a year ago and returns its starting backfield of tailback Raymond Priester and fullback Emory Smith. Priester set a school record last year as a sophomore with 1,286 yards. Smith—Emmitt's little brother—had 14 rushing TDs last year.

As for the passing attack, junior quarterback Nealon Greene is establishing himself as one of the best passers in school history. He's efficient, but the yardage totals need to improve. Clemson ranked 93rd in the nation with 140 passing yards per game in '95. New offensive coordinator Darrell Moody, who previously held that position at North Carolina,

plans to utilize the tight end more and use more play-action. Senior Antwan Wyatt (42 catches, 662 yards) is a big-play threat at wide receiver.

DEFENSE: Always a team strength, the defense allowed just 16.2 points per game (best in the ACC and 10th best in the nation). Clemson also led the ACC in pass defense and was second in the league in total defense to North Carolina.

Five starters return, led by 1995 true freshman sensation Anthony Simmons at inside linebacker. Simmons made a team-best 142 tackles last year and was named the ACC Rookie of the Year and a third-team All America.

Clemson must replace both its starting safeties, including second-team All-American Brian Dawkins (6 INTs), but West still considers the secondary a strength. Seniors Dexter McCleon and Peter Ford are solid at the corners.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Clemson needs to find a new punter and kicker but has at least two players at each position battling for the job. Kevin Laird saw some action last year but averaged less than 30 yards on nine punts. He'll compete with recruit Ryan Romano. Mike Brice and David Richardson will compete for the kicking job.

The return game will remain a Clemson strength. Wyatt was the only player in the nation last year to finish in the top 15 in the nation in both punt and kickoff returns.

RECRUITING: Clemson loaded up on defensive linemen this year and netted some good ones. Thomas Washington and Terry Bryant may be the best of 12 linemen, some of whom will move to the offensive side. Washington (6-foot-5, 300 pounds) was rated the 10th best player in South Carolina by *SuperPrep*. Bryant (6-4, 255) turned down Notre Dame in favor of the Tigers.

Idris Price (6-2, 215) of Milford, Conn., one of the top defensive players in the Northeast, will continue Clemson's tradition of big-time linebackers.

Craig Ellenport is a free-lance writer based in New York City.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Nealon Greene (Jr., 5-11, 191)*	Brandon Streeter (Fr., 6-3, 189)
TB: Raymond Priester (Jr., 6-1, 230)*	Anthony Downs (Jr., 6-1, 202)
FB: Emory Smith (Sr., 6-0, 242)*	Kelton Dunnican (Sr., 5-11, 206)
WR: Tony Horne (Jr., 5-11, 177)*	Kenya Crooks (Jr., 6-3, 189)
WR: Antwan Wyatt (Sr., 5-11, 197)*	Joe Woods (Sr., 5-9, 160)
TE: Lamont Hall (Jr., 6-4, 252)	Jason Collins (Jr., 6-5, 220)
LT: Jim Bundren (Jr., 6-3, 283)*	Joedy Mitchell (Fr., 6-6, 280)
LG: Glenn Rountree (Jr., 6-3, 294)*	Zane Lewis (So., 6-2, 283)
C: Jamie Trimble (Sr., 6-2, 246)	Ed Altman (Jr., 6-3, 262)
RG: Matt Butler (So., 6-3, 290)	B. Banasiewicz (So., 6-3, 293)
RT: Holland Postell (So., 6-6, 296)	Mark Landry (Jr., 6-4, 273)

DEFENSE

DE: Tony Plantin (Jr., 6-4, 273)	Trevor Pryce (Jr., 6-6, 278)
NG: Raymond White (Jr., 6-3, 261)*	B. Randolph (Sr., 6-2, 281)
DE: Eric Bradford (Sr., 6-3, 271)	Brett Williams (Sr., 6-4, 265)*
LB: Howard Bartley (So., 6-3, 197)	Kendrick Bridges (Fr., 6-2, 210)
LB: Mond Wilson (Jr., 6-3, 243)	Chris Jones (So., 6-1, 208)
LB: Anthony Simmons (So., 6-1, 213)*	John Thompson (So., 5-10, 221)
LB: Tony DeSue (Sr., 5-10, 211)	Rahim Abdullah (Fr., 6-6, 231)
CB: Dexter McCleon (Sr., 5-10, 196)*	Andy Ford (Sr., 5-11, 178)
CB: Peter Ford (Sr., 5-11, 175)*	Damond Ward (So., 5-10, 172)
SS: Andre Carter (Sr., 5-10, 200)	Brad Pope (Sr., 5-11, 187)
FS: Antwan Edwards (So., 6-1, 210)	Michael Allen (So., 5-11, 204)

SPECIAL TEAMS:

K: Mike Brice (Jr., 5-11, 182)	David Richardson (Jr., 6-1, 178)
P: Kevin Laird (So., 5-11, 172)	Ryan Romano (Fr., 5-11, 180)

(* denotes returning starter)



ACC

FACTS

COACH: Tommy West, 3rd year, 14-8

'95 RECORD: 8-4 (6-2 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Clemson Memorial Stadium, Clemson, S.C. (81,473, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 12 (7 off., 5 def.)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Brian Dawkins, DB (2nd-team All America); Will Young, OL (1st-team All-ACC); Lamarick Simpson, DL (1st-team All-ACC); Dwayne Morgan, OL (2nd-team All-ACC); Jeff Sauve, K (2nd-team All-ACC); Leomont Evans, DB (2nd-team All-ACC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Nealon Greene, Jr., 107-183-1,474

yards, 10 TDs, 6 INTs

RUSHING: Raymond Priester, Jr., 223 carries, 1,286 yards, 6 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Antwan Wyatt, Sr., 42, 5 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Wyatt, 662

TACKLES: Anthony Simmons, Soph., 142

SACKS: Simmons, 3.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Peter Ford, Sr., 3

PUNTING: Kevin Laird, Soph., 29.8 avg.

KICKING: None

SCORING: Emory Smith, Sr., 90 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 . . .at North Carolina

Sept. 7 . . .FURMAN

Sept. 21 . . .at Missouri

Sept. 28 . . .WAKE FOREST

Oct. 5 . . .at Florida State

Oct. 12 . . .at Duke

Oct. 19 . . .GEORGIA TECH (HC)

Nov. 2 . . .MARYLAND

Nov. 9 . . .at Virginia

Nov. 16 . . .NORTH CAROLINA STATE

Nov. 23 . . .SOUTH CAROLINA

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . .W. CAROLINA; W, 55-9

Sept. 9 . . .FLORIDA STATE; L, 45-26

Sept. 16 . . .at Wake Forest; W, 29-14

Sept. 23 . . .VIRGINIA; L, 22-3

Sept. 30 . . .at N.C. State; W, 43-22

Oct. 7 . . .GEORGIA; L, 19-17

Oct. 21 . . .at Maryland; W, 17-0

Oct. 28 . . .at Georgia Tech; W, 24-3

Nov. 4 . . .N. CAROLINA; W, 17-10

Nov. 11 . . .DUKE; W, 34-17

Nov. 18 . . .at S. Carolina; W, 38-17

Jan. 1 . . .vs. Syracuse in Gator Bowl; L, 41-0

MILESTONE

■ Clemson was one of eight teams to post a perfect regular-season record on the road last season, going 5-0 away from Death Valley.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Establish a more balanced offense, especially by working in play-action passes on first and second downs.
- Replace starters and add depth along depleted defensive line.
- Find adequate replacements at punter and kicker.



FACTS

COACH: Fred Goldsmith, 3rd year, 11-12; 36-50-1 overall
'95 RECORD: 3-8 (1-7 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Wallace Wade Stadium, Durham, N.C. (33,941, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 12 (6 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Ray Farmer, DB (1st-team All-ACC); Bill Khayat, TE (2nd-team All-ACC); Spence Fischer, QB; Tom Cochran, K

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Dave Green, Jr., 4-8-27 yards
RUSHING: Laymarr Marshall, Soph., 188 carries, 708 yards, 13 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Marc Wilson, Sr., 47, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Wilson, 531
TACKLES: Chike Egbuniwe, Jr., 84
SACKS: Brian McCormack, Soph., 2
INTERCEPTIONS: Brandon Pollock, Sr., and Tawambi Settles, Jr., 2 each
PUNTING: John Krueger, Sr., 40.6 avg.
KICKING: None
SCORING: Marshall, 78 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 ...at Florida State
 Sept. 14 ...NORTHWESTERN
 Sept. 21 ...at Army
 Sept. 28 ...at Georgia Tech
 Oct. 5 ...at Navy
 Oct. 12 ...CLEMSON (HC)
 Oct. 26 ...MARYLAND
 Nov. 2 ...VIRGINIA
 Nov. 9 ...at North Carolina State
 Nov. 16 ...at Wake Forest
 Nov. 23 ...NORTH CAROLINA

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...at Florida State; L, 70-26
 Sept. 9 ...RUTGERS; W, 24-14
 Sept. 16 ...at Army; W, 23-21
 Sept. 23 ...at Maryland; L, 41-28
 Sept. 30 ...NAVY; L, 30-9
 Oct. 7 ...GEORGIA TECH; L, 37-21
 Oct. 14 ...at Virginia; L, 44-30
 Oct. 21 ...NORTH CAROLINA STATE; L, 41-38
 Oct. 28 ...WAKE FOREST; W, 42-26
 Nov. 11 ...at Clemson; L, 34-17
 Nov. 18 ...at North Carolina; L, 28-24

MILESTONE

■ Duke had one 1,000-yard rusher prior to 1989, but Laymarr Marshall (708 yards in 1995) can post the fourth such year in Blue Devils' history should he hit that plateau this season.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Stay healthier than last year.
- Mature quickly along the defensive line.
- Find a quarterback to replace Spence Fischer.

By PAUL McMULLEN

Duke began spring practice right where it spent most of 1995—in the emergency room. On the first day of workouts in March, senior flanker Marc Wilson separated a shoulder and redshirt freshman cornerback Alonzo Moyer bruised a kneecap. Both had minor surgery and forced coach Fred Goldsmith to think of omens, good and bad.

"As bad as Moyer's injury looked, it could've been worse," Goldsmith said. "It was a bruised kneecap. Last year, it would have been a torn ACL."

In Goldsmith's mind, the Blue Devils can only get healthier—and better. He lost one of the best quarterbacks in school history, his starting defensive line and a ubiquitous free safety, but he hopes that the injury bug departed, too. Goldsmith's inaugural season at Duke in 1994 provided an unexpected run to the Hall of Fame Bowl, but a lot of the luck he had last year was bad.

"Our defense was completely devastated by injuries," Goldsmith said. "I've just never been in a situation like that. I was blessed the three years before that with good health, but I can't complain because what goes around comes around. If I can get three good years for every bad year, I'll take that."

Goldsmith has plenty of concerns beside Duke's health. More than half of the scholarship players (44) will be true or redshirt freshmen, and the non-conference schedule replaced Rutgers with Northwestern.

OFFENSE: Junior Dave Green or sophomore Matt Rader will replace Spence Fischer, who threw for 9,021 career yards, the second-highest figure in ACC history behind another Blue Devil, Ben Bennett.

"I'm not in any rush to name a starter," Goldsmith said. "They're inexperienced game-wise, but mature kids. With so many receivers and linemen returning, maybe he won't have to do as much."

Wilson had a fine debut as a starter in 1995, catching 47 passes for 531 yards. Split end Corey Thomas, a junior, already has 89 career receptions. In his first year at tight end, Jeff Hodrick snared 34



BILLY GRANVILLE-LB

passes and was voted second-team All-ACC. Junior Laymarr Marshall, the most proven of a decent group of running backs, netted 708 yards and scored 13 touchdowns as a first-year starter.

The offensive line lost two starters, but left guard Patrick Mannelly, right guard Chad Melita and left tackle Phillip Chappell return, making life easier for Fischer's successor.

DEFENSE: The Blue Devils have five starters back from a group that opponents beat up and embarrassed last year. Duke allowed 486.2 yards per game, 104th among the nation's 108 Division I-A teams.

Duke lost All-ACC free safety Ray Farmer, among others, but Tawambi Settles moves over after a year at strong safety and sophomore Desi Thomas returns at right corner.

The linebackers must overcome last year's scars. Billy Granville strained a knee ligament, was dismissed from the team, then reinstated the day after the season ended. LeVance McQueen missed the first three games with a hip injury. Chike Egbuniwe took advantage of those and other openings to register 84 tackles.

Exactly how green is the defensive line? The most experienced is sophomore nose guard Eric Scanlan. **SPECIAL TEAMS:** Punter John Krueger got too much work last season. Krueger booted the ball 62 times, averaging 40.6 yards per punt. Redshirt freshman Sims Lenhardt, who connected on 17 of 26 field goals in high school, gets his opportunity at kicker. He may have a stronger leg than Tom Cochran, Duke's field-goal kicker the last three years.

RECRUITING: Goldsmith went to 12 states and reeled in his second straight class of 25. The emphasis was on line prospects, 10 in all, including defensive lineman Troy Austin (6-foot-3, 250 pounds) of Orange, N.J., and one of Pennsylvania's best, defensive tackle David Lynch (6-3, 255).

Paul McMullen covers the ACC for the Baltimore Sun.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Dave Green (Jr., 6-2, 200) Matt Rader (So., 6-4, 225)
RB: Laymarr Marshall (Jr., 5-10, 210) Reco Owens (So., 5-11, 170)
RB: Charles London (Jr., 5-9, 195) Matt DeOrto (Jr., 6-0, 195)
WR: Corey Thomas (Jr., 6-0, 170) D. Flemming (Sr., 6-0, 170)
WR: Marc Wilson (Sr., 6-3, 200) Joe Opalenick (Jr., 6-0, 180)
TE: Jeff Hodrick (Jr., 6-2, 205) Gerald Ford (Sr., 6-3, 235)
LT: Phillip Chappell (Sr., 6-6, 280) Adam Padgett (So., 6-5, 265)
LG: Patrick Mannelly (Sr., 6-6, 275) Erik Dunlap (Sr., 6-5, 270)
C: John Gordon (Jr., 6-4, 295) Aaron Duke (So., 6-3, 250)
RG: Chad Melita (Jr., 6-3, 290) Rob Hines (Fr., 6-5, 275)
RT: Lennie Friedman (So., 6-4, 275) Austin Smithwick (Fr., 6-5, 250)

DEFENSE

DT: Curtiss Bunch (Sr., 6-2, 265) Chris Combs (Fr., 6-6, 250)
NT: Eric Scanlan (So., 6-2, 260) Andy Bryant (So., 6-2, 240)
DE: Chris Ruzic (So., 6-3, 250) Joey Bachstein (Fr., 6-4, 235)
LB: Brian McCormack (So., 6-6, 235) Jim Sitter (Sr., 6-4, 240)
LB: Chike Egbuniwe (Jr., 6-2, 230) Ryan Stallmeyer (Fr., 6-2, 215)
LB: Billy Granville (Sr., 6-3, 245) Jim Kovach (So., 6-3, 215)
LB: LeVance McQueen (Jr., 6-1, 240) Lyle Burdine (So., 6-1, 215)
CB: Desi Thomas (So., 5-11, 185) Alonzo Moyer (Fr., 5-11, 185)
CB: Brandon Pollock (Sr., 5-10, 180) Kenan Holley (So., 5-11, 180)
SS: Darius Clark (Fr., 6-1, 205) Brian Krenz (So., 6-0, 200)
FS: Tawambi Settles (Jr., 6-2, 190) Eric Jones (Fr., 6-1, 185)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Sims Lenhardt (Fr., 5-11, 180) Matt Mapes (So., 5-8, 170)
P: John Krueger (Sr., 6-4, 215) Sims Lenhardt (Fr., 5-11, 180)
 (* denotes returning starter)

FLORIDA STATE



WARRICK DUNN-RB

CRAG JONES/ALSPORT USA

By CHRIS HARRY

The air of invincibility may have evaporated on a cool Shenandoah Valley night last autumn (see Virginia, 33-28), but the Florida State Seminoles will enter the 1996 season the same way they've embarked on each of their four previous Atlantic Coast Conference campaigns: The clear-cut class of the league and legitimate contenders for a national championship.

The Seminoles, 31-1 in ACC play, once again have canyon-like depth on both sides of the ball. They also have the most home-field friendly schedule in the country. Thanks to Maryland and Wake Forest selling their FSU home dates to officials in Orlando and Miami, respectively, the Seminoles play nine games inside state lines—including rival Florida at home—with the lone potential hiccup that always-tough, even-year venture to the Orange Bowl.

OFFENSE: Under the direction of Danny Kanell, the Seminoles were the nation's third-ranked offense (551.5 ypg) and led the ACC in five major statistical categories, including scoring (50.8 ppg) and first downs (27.4 pg). Most teams might fret over losing an All America-caliber quarterback, but when you have two former prep superstars waiting, the transition becomes less worrisome.

Thad Busby is the next in line. At 6-foot-3 and 220 pounds, he has size, strength and a marvelous touch. Should he falter, redshirt freshman Dan Kendra, the 1994 *USA Today* Offensive Player of the Year, will be there for the enviable chore of throwing to FSU's corps of receivers. Andre Cooper and E.G. Green, both 1,000-yard receivers last season, will be backed by talented Wayne Messam and troubled but highly touted freshman Randy Moss, who's coming off a mandatory one-year suspension for his part in a high school brawl.

The passing game won't be FSU's only

strength, thanks to Heisman Trophy candidate Warrick Dunn's decision not to become the 12th Seminole since 1989 to leave school early for the NFL. Dunn will be spelled by clones Rock Preston and Dee Feaster. Massive fullback Clarence "Pooh Bear" Williams leads the way but also is a designated short-yardage scorer (13 TDs in 1995).

Only seniors Todd Fordham and Chad Bates return on the offensive line, but the Seminoles have plenty to fall back on. The best of the bunch could be junior-college transfer Walter Jones.

DEFENSE: The Seminoles showed some uncharacteristic vulnerabilities on defense last season, particularly in giving up big plays. Things should be better in 1996 despite the likely loss of linebacker Sam Cowart to a medical redshirt season for reconstructive knee surgery. Ends Reinard Wilson and Peter Boulware might be the best pass-rushing tandem in the country.

Few in the nation can field a slew of acclaimed linebackers like the Seminoles—Daryl Bush, Lamont Green, Demetro Stephens, Hank Grant, Henri Crockett ... take your pick. They all were high school All Americans and figure prominently in the 1996 plans. FSU's entire secondary returns, but that's no ringing endorsement. The Seminoles allowed 213.4 passing yards per game last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Senior Scott Bentley, who as a freshman kicked four field goals in FSU's championship-clinching Orange Bowl victory against Nebraska, has been wildly erratic. Senior punter Sean Liss has drawn worthy comparisons to former FSU All America and long-time NFL veteran Rohn Stark.

RECRUITING: Need you ask? The Seminoles again corralled one of the nation's best classes. Jacksonville's Laveraneus Coles was rated by several analysts as the nation's No. 1 running back, while Baltimore's Tommy Polley (linebacker) and Jerry Carmichael (tackle) of Fort Lauderdale are also highly regarded at their positions.

Chris Harry is a staff writer for the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Thad Busby (Jr., 6-3, 220)	Dan Kendra (Fr., 6-2, 238)
RB: Warrick Dunn (Sr., 5-11, 180)*	Rock Preston (Jr., 5-9, 183)
RB: C. Williams (Jr., 6-1, 286)*	Khalid Abdullah (So., 6-0, 225)
WR: Andre Cooper (Sr., 6-2, 194)*	Peter Warrick (Fr., 6-0, 190)
WR: E.G. Green (Jr., 5-11, 189)*	Wayne Messam (Sr., 6-4, 210)
TE: Melvin Pearsall (Jr., 6-1, 290)*	Kamari Charlton (Sr., 6-2, 242)
LT: Walter Jones (Jr., 6-3, 230)	Tra Thomas (Jr., 6-8, 330)
LG: Marcus Long (Sr., 6-3, 323)	Jason Whitaker (Fr., 6-5, 265)
C: Kevin Long (Jr., 6-5, 278)	Gideon Brown (Jr., 6-2, 285)
RG: Chad Bates (Sr., 6-3, 285)*	Dale Valente (So., 6-4, 294)
RT: Todd Fordham (Sr., 6-5, 300)*	Dennis Green (Jr., 6-4, 285)

DEFENSE

DE: Reinard Wilson (Sr., 6-2, 255)*	Greg Spries (Jr., 6-2, 270)
DT: Connell Spain (Sr., 6-2, 285)	Julian Pittman (Jr., 6-3, 278)
NT: Andre Wadsworth (Jr., 6-2, 282)*	Jerry Johnson (Fr., 6-2, 275)
DE: Peter Boulware (Jr., 6-5, 255)*	Chris Walker (Fr., 6-6, 225)
LB: Vernon Crawford (So., 6-2, 240)	Lamont Green (So., 6-3, 230)
LB: Daryl Bush (Jr., 6-2, 230)*	D. Stephens (So., 6-3, 236)
LB: Henri Crockett (Sr., 6-2, 240)	Hank Grant (So., 6-2, 230)
CB: James Colzie (Sr., 5-10, 170)	Samari Rolle (Jr., 6-1, 170)*
CB: Byron Capers (Sr., 6-1, 194)*	Marlo Edwards (So., 6-2, 185)
SS: Robert Hammond (Jr., 6-3, 195)*	Dexter Jackson (So., 6-1, 185)
FS: Sean Hamlet (Sr., 6-0, 210)*	Sean Key (So., 6-1, 180)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Scott Bentley (Sr., 5-11, 188)*	Travis Chambers (Jr., 6-0, 175)
P: Sean Liss (Sr., 6-4, 210)*	Rob Gleason (Jr., 6-0, 180)

(* denotes returning starter)



ACC

FACTS

COACH: Bobby Bowden, 21st year, 186-49-4; 259-81-4 overall

'95 RECORD: 10-2 (7-1 conf.)

FINAL RANKINGS: No. 4 AP, No. 5 USA Today/CNN HOME STADIUM: Doak S. Campbell Stadium, Tallahassee, Fla. (77,500, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 17 (7 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Clay Shiver, OL (2nd-team All America); Danny Kanell, QB (1st-team All-ACC); Jesus Hernandez, OL (1st-team All-ACC); Lewis Tyre, OL (1st-team All-ACC); Orpheus Royce, DT

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Thad Busby, Jr., 38-59-571 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT

RUSHING: Warrick Dunn, Sr., 166 carries, 1,242 yards, 13 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Andre Cooper, Sr., 71, 15 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): E.G. Green, Jr., 1,007

TACKLES: Sam Cowart, Sr., 115

SACKS: Pete Boulware, Jr., 10

INTERCEPTIONS: Samari Rolle, Jr., 3

PUNTING: Sean Liss, Sr., 43.9 avg.

KICKING: Scott Bentley, Sr., 9-16 FGs (long 40); 67-69 PATs

SCORING: Dunn, 96 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	...DUKE
Sept. 19	...at North Carolina State
Sept. 28	...NORTH CAROLINA
Oct. 5	...CLEMSON
Oct. 12	...at Miami (Fla.)
Oct. 26	...VIRGINIA (HC)
Nov. 2	...at Georgia Tech
Nov. 9	...vs. Wake Forest*
Nov. 16	...SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
Nov. 23	...vs. Maryland#
Nov. 30	...FLORIDA
*at Citrus Bowl, Orlando, Fla.	
#at Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami, Fla.	

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	...at Duke; W, 70-26
Sept. 9	...at Clemson; W, 45-26
Sept. 16	...N.C. STATE; W, 77-17
Sept. 23	...CENTRAL FLORIDA; W, 46-14
Oct. 7	...MIAMI (FLA.); W, 41-17
Oct. 14	...WAKE FOREST; W, 72-13
Oct. 21	...GEORGIA TECH; W, 42-10
Nov. 2	...at Virginia; L, 33-28
Nov. 11	...at North Carolina; W, 28-12
Nov. 18	...MARYLAND; W, 59-17
Nov. 25	...at Florida; L, 35-24
Jan. 1	...vs. Notre Dame in Orange Bowl; W, 31-26

MILESTONE

■ Running back Warrick Dunn needs 778 yards to become FSU's career rushing leader.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Fill three key losses on the offensive line.
- Surrender fewer big plays on defense.
- Keep QB Thad Busby healthy.



GEORGIA TECH

FACTS

COACH: George O'Leary, 3rd year, 6-8
'95 RECORD: 6-5 (5-3 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Bobby Dodd Stadium/Grant Field, Atlanta, Ga. (46,000, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 17 (7 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Mike Cheever, OL (2nd-team All-ACC); Donnie Davis, QB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Dexter Stallworth, Sr., 5-10-37 yards
RUSHING: C.J. Williams, Jr., 245 carries, 1,138 yards, 12 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Harvey Middleton, Jr., 31, 3 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Middleton, 444
TACKLES: Keith Brooking, Jr., 146
SACKS: Jermaine Miles and Jimmy Clements, Srs., 4 each
INTERCEPTIONS: Nathan Perryman, Sr., 3
PUNTING: Rodney Williams, Soph., 38.1 avg.
KICKING: David Frakes, Jr., 10-15 FGs (long 46), 16-18 PATs
SCORING: C. J. Williams, 78 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 ...at North Carolina State
 Sept. 14 ...WAKE FOREST
 Sept. 21 ...at North Carolina
 Sept. 28 ...DUKE
 Oct. 5 ...VIRGINIA
 Oct. 19 ...at Clemson
 Oct. 26 ...CENTRAL FLORIDA (HC)
 Nov. 2 ...FLORIDA STATE
 Nov. 14 ...at Maryland
 Nov. 23 ...NAVY
 Nov. 30 ...at Georgia

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...FURMAN; W, 51-7
 Sept. 7 ...at Arizona; L, 20-19
 Sept. 16 ...at Virginia; L, 41-14
 Sept. 28 ...MARYLAND; W, 31-17
 Oct. 7 ...at Duke; W, 37-21
 Oct. 14 ...NORTH CAROLINA; W, 27-25
 Oct. 21 ...at Florida State; L, 42-10
 Oct. 28 ...CLEMSON; L, 24-3
 Nov. 4 ...at Wake Forest; W, 24-23
 Nov. 11 ...NORTH CAROLINA STATE; W, 27-19
 Nov. 23 ...GEORGIA; L, 18-17

MILESTONES

- Because the Olympics will be using Georgia Tech's campus, the Yellow Jackets will have played five games in 1996 before the fall semester begins.
- WR/KR Derrick Steagall needs 995 all-purpose yards to move into Georgia Tech's all-time top five in that category.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a starting QB to replace Donnie Davis.
- Work some of the young receivers into the passing attack.
- Apply more pressure in the pass rush.

By CRAIG ELLENPORT

Only Northwestern and Toledo posted greater turnarounds from 1994 to 1995 than did Georgia Tech. Yet, of those three teams, Tech is the only one with much room for improvement.

Northwestern and Toledo both won 10 regular-season games and were rewarded with bowl trips; Georgia Tech finished 6-5 and was home for the holidays. Nevertheless, it was a young team that fought hard for George O'Leary in his first full season as head coach since replacing Bill Lewis late in the 1994 campaign, a season that ended with a 1-10 record.

"Our goal is simple," said O'Leary, who was defensive coordinator when Tech won a share of the national title in 1990. "We always like to win at least one more game than the year before." But O'Leary is also quick to point out that Georgia Tech came within two points of an 8-3 record, losing to Arizona and Georgia by one point each.

With 17 returning starters, O'Leary has a good chance to meet that goal. His enthusiasm is shared by star running back C.J. Williams, who added, "I haven't seen as many people work out as hard in the winter program as I have this year."

OFFENSE: Williams was switched from nickel back to tailback midway through the 1994 season, and it was a stroke of genius, if not luck. Williams rushed for 1,138 yards and 12 TDs as a sophomore last year and will challenge for top rushing honors in the ACC this season. But wait, there's more. "That's one position where we're very deep," said O'Leary, who is very high on sophomore fullback Charles Wiley.

Quarterback remains a question, as the Yellow Jackets must replace Donnie Davis. But considering Tech finished last in the ACC (94th in the nation) in pass offense, it can't get much worse. Sophomore Brandon Shaw and redshirt freshman Joe Hamilton will battle for the starting spot. Shaw is the better dropback passer, but Hamilton's athleticism reminds O'Leary of Shawn Jones, the most suc-



C.J. WILLIAMS-RB

ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT USA

cessful signal caller in school history. Receiver Derrick Steagall hopes to finally stay healthy, and O'Leary is high on speedy youngster Conrad Daniels. The offensive line must replace All-ACC center Michael Cheever but has three solid starters returning, led by tackle Curtis McGee.

DEFENSE: Eight starters are back for O'Leary's defense, which was fourth in the nation last year against the run (91.2 ypg.). The key to the unit is the inside linebacking duo of Keith Brooking and Ron Rogers, who finished 1-2 in the ACC in tackles, respectively. Applying pressure from the outside are defensive ends Ralph Hughes and Jermaine Miles.

The secondary is led by All-ACC cornerback Nathan Perryman.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Punter Rodney Williams and kicker David Frakes are both back in the fold. Williams, a true freshman last season, averaged 50 yards on four punts in the season finale, a mark he would like to hit more often in 1996. Frakes, a junior, made 10 of 15 field-goal tries in his first full season of action.

While injuries have kept Steagall from becoming the dangerous kickoff return man the Yellow Jackets envisioned, Perryman emerged last year returning punts, finishing 14th nationally in that category.

RECRUITING: "Recruiting is like shaving," said O'Leary. "If you don't do it every day, you look like a bum." Well, there are no five o'clock shadows here, as O'Leary landed Georgia Tech's best recruiting class since the 1988 crop that featured defensive lineman Marco Coleman. This year's group of incoming freshmen includes an impact quarterback (Quincy Carter) and nine quality offensive linemen. Brett Basquin, Titus Nelson and David Powell all are big receivers who can help right away. Linebacker Chris Edwards committed to Tech despite the fact that his cousin is Georgia runner Robert Edwards.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Brandon Shaw (So., 6-3, 211) Joe Hamilton (Fr., 5-10, 189)
 RB: C.J. Williams (Jr., 6-1, 211)* Phillip Rogers (So., 6-1, 220)
 RB: Charles Wiley (So., 6-1, 218)* Curtis Holloman (So., 6-2, 225)
 WR: Derrick Steagall (Sr., 6-0, 202) Dexter Stallworth (Sr., 6-3, 206)
 WR: H. Middleton (Jr., 6-0, 187)* Conrad Daniels (So., 6-0, 179)
 TE: Grant Baynham (Sr., 6-5, 247)* Chris Myers (So., 6-7, 253)
 LT: Curtis McGee (Sr., 6-5, 285)* John Grantham (Jr., 6-4, 263)
 LG: Michael Minter (Sr., 6-5, 290)* M. Westmoreland (Sr., 6-3, 240)
 C: Abe Fernandez (Jr., 6-4, 278) Craig Page (So., 6-3, 273)
 RG: Ken Celaj (Jr., 6-4, 292)* Kevin Knapp (Fr., 6-3, 285)
 RT: Steve Jackson (Sr., 6-6, 292) Yoel Molina (Sr., 6-6, 295)

DEFENSE

DE: Ralph Hughes (Jr., 6-4, 256)* Nate Stimson (So., 6-2, 255)
 DT: Derrick Shepard (Jr., 6-3, 289)* Patrick Bradford (Jr., 6-2, 274)
 NT: Dan Witherspoon (Jr., 6-2, 277) Kamal Bologun (Jr., 6-6, 267)
 DE: Jermaine Miles (Sr., 6-5, 261)* DeShaan Simmons (So., 6-3, 247)
 LB: Jimmy Clements (Sr., 6-3, 219)* Jesse Tarplin (So., 6-3, 242)
 LB: Ron Rogers (Jr., 6-1, 235)* Justin Robertson (So., 6-1, 236)
 LB: Keith Brooking (Jr., 6-3, 235)* Delunta Cameron (So., 6-2, 237)
 CB: Kofi Smith (So., 5-9, 178) Donte Booker (Fr., 5-11, 211)
 CB: N. Perryman (Sr., 5-9, 191)* Jason Bostic (So., 5-9, 177)
 SS: Mike Dee (Sr., 6-4, 198)* Gary Joseph (Jr., 6-0, 206)
 FS: Brian Wilkins (So., 6-3, 198) Jerry Caldwell (So., 5-11, 190)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: David Frakes (Jr., 6-1, 194)* Chris Leone (Sr., 6-6, 207)
 P: Rodney Williams (So., 6-1, 175)* Chris Leone (Sr., 6-6, 207)
 (* denotes returning starter)

Craig Ellenport is a free-lance writer based in New York City.

MARYLAND



BUDDY RODGERS-RB

By **PAUL McMULLEN**

Two, four, six. Eight? That progression in the win column would suit Mark Duffner just fine, and it also would be enough to get the Terps a bowl bid for the first time since 1990.

After two wins in 1993 and four in '94, Maryland bolted to a 4-0 start behind a gradually improving defense and gritty quarterback Brian Cummings. But the Terps exploded in the chemistry lab after the return of Scott Milanovich from an NCAA gambling suspension. Maryland posted its first winning record under Duffner, but a 2-5 finish kept the Terps out of the Carquest Bowl and signaled the end of the run-and-shoot in College Park.

A hastily installed I-formation got Maryland its sixth win, and Duffner spent the spring making a fullback and a tight end more prominent in the offense, which now will have multiple looks.

"We have to get more balance," Duffner said, "but the message shouldn't be that we're departing completely from what we've done in the past."

OFFENSE: Mario Chavez, the projected starter at fullback, was a reserve defensive lineman through eight games of his junior season and the tight ends are junior college transfers, but the Terps say they're comfortable with the more traditional look.

"The complexity of the run-and-shoot was a burden," said Cummings, who missed a few spring practices pitching for the baseball team. "The best thing about this [the I-formation] is that it's simpler. There are fewer reads for everyone. The change takes pressure off of everyone."

Despite the departure of the Milanovich-Jermaine Lewis pass-and-catch combination that was one of the most prolific in ACC history, the Terps' cupboard isn't bare. Cummings was No. 2 in the ACC in passing efficiency after four weeks. Bruising junior Buddy Rodgers gained 718 yards, the most by a Terp since 1985. Wide receivers Mancel Johnson (30 catches), who is suspended for the first two games for

his alleged involvement in some on-campus thefts, and Geroy Simon (54 catches) are three-year starters. Four starters return on the offensive line.

DEFENSE: Maryland allowed an NCAA-record 553 yards per game in 1993. Last year, that figure was down to 350.5. With nine returning starters, the Terps should continue their improvement under coordinator Kevin Coyle, who turned down the head coaching job at Holy Cross.

Cornerback A.J. Johnson, who shared the ACC lead with six interceptions, and linebacker Ratcliff Thomas, who should become the Terps' all-time leading tackler, are four-year starters. Cornerback Chad Scott, who had no difficulty adjusting to I-A after transferring from Towson State, and free safety Lamont Gore lead a senior-laden secondary.

The Terps can start four linemen who learned from the debacle of '93, and the rotation at end also includes junior Eric Ogbogu, a second-team All-ACC selection who had seven sacks a year ago.

If there's a question mark on defense, it's at linebacker, where two first-year starters could be sophomores Kendall Ogle and Eric Barton.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Milanovich also was the punter for most of the last three years, so the position is true freshman Sean Starnier's to lose when he reports to camp in August. He averaged 42.3 yards in his career at Cedar Cliff (Pa.) High. Joe O'Donnell pulled a calf muscle in midseason and struggled to regain the form that made him the most reliable placekicker in the ACC two years ago.

RECRUITING: This class ranks among the top 30 in the country. Besides Starnier, there could be immediate playing time for Damone Boone, a tailback from Springfield, Va., who is the second *Parade* All-America ever to come to Maryland and Top 50 recruit Omar Cheeseboro, a wideout from New Jersey. The offensive line was another strength, as New Jersey's Tim Howard, New York's Brett Trammell and Florida's Vince Xantos were all highly touted.

Paul McMullen covers the Terrapins for the Baltimore Sun.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB Brian Cummings (Jr., 5-11, 205)*	Trey Evans (Fr., 6-1, 180)
RB: Buddy Rodgers (Jr., 5-11, 231)*	Brian Underwood (Jr., 6-2, 183)
RB: Mario Chavez (Sr., 6-0, 246)*	Brett White (Jr., 6-1, 240)
WR: Walt Williams (Sr., 5-11, 192)	Troy Davidson (Fr., 5-11, 170)
WR: Geroy Simon (Sr., 6-0, 183)*	Jason Ward (Sr., 5-11, 176)
TE: Tim Brown (Jr., 6-3, 245)	Josh Hough (Jr., 6-5, 250)
LT: Darryl Gilliam (Sr., 6-5, 321)*	Brad Messina (Fr., 6-6, 300)
LG: Pat Ward (Jr., 6-5, 308)*	Pete Sorrentino (Jr., 6-5, 305)
C: Erik Greenstein (Jr., 6-2, 300)*	Eric Timothy (Fr., 6-3, 300)
RG: Aaron Henne (Sr., 6-5, 299)*	Mitch Watkins (Jr., 6-2, 269)
RT: John Feugill (So., 6-7, 290)	Ryan Rezzelle (So., 6-6, 308)

DEFENSE

DE: Eric Hicks (Jr., 6-6, 248)*	Eric Ogbogu (Jr., 6-4, 245)
DE: Johnnie Hicks (Jr., 6-2, 281)*	Delbert Cowsette (Fr., 6-1, 265)
DT: Tim Watson (Jr., 6-4, 276)*	Anthony Jenkins (Sr., 6-1, 247)
DE: Al Wallace (Sr., 6-5, 244)*	Eric Ogbogu (Jr., 6-4, 245)
LB: Eric Barton (So., 6-3, 235)	Pete Timmins (Fr., 6-4, 230)
LB: Ratcliff Thomas (Sr., 6-1, 238)*	Rhett Hesprich (Jr., 6-0, 226)
LB: Kendall Ogle (So., 6-1, 209)	Erwyn Lyght (Fr., 6-1, 200)
CB: Chad Scott (Sr., 6-1, 195)*	Paul Jackson (So., 6-0, 177)
CB: A.J. Johnson (Sr., 5-10, 170)*	Lynde Washington (Fr., 5-9, 170)
SS: Andre Hentz (Sr., 5-8, 174)*	Derrick Johnson (Fr., 6-3, 205)
FS: Lamont Gore (Sr., 6-1, 212)*	Henry Baker (Jr., 6-3, 190)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Joe O'Donnell (Sr., 5-10, 185)*	Brad Rhodes (So., 5-8, 157)
P: Sean Starnier (Fr., 6-0, 180)	Russell Edwards (So., 5-11, 197)

(* denotes returning starter)



ACC

FACTS

COACH: Mark Duffner, 5th year, 15-28; 75-33-1 overall

'95 RECORD: 6-5 (4-4 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Byrd Stadium, College Park, Md. (48,055, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS 18 (8 off., 9 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Jermaine Lewis, WR (1st-team All-ACC); Scott Milanovich, QB/P; Mike Settles, LB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Brian Cummings, Jr., 98-166-1,193 yards, 5 TDs, 4 INTs

RUSHING: Buddy Rodgers, Jr., 168 carries, 718 yards, 8 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Geroy Simon, Sr., 54

RECEIVING (YARDS): Simon, 440

TACKLES: Ratcliff Thomas, Sr., 103

SACKS: Eric Ogbogu, Jr., 7

INTERCEPTIONS: Andre Johnson, Sr., 6

PUNTING: Russell Edwards, Soph., 35.0 avg.

KICKING: Joe O'Donnell, Sr., 8-11 FGs (long 47), 16-16 PATs

SCORING: Rodgers, 62 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	.NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 7	.ALA.-BIRMINGHAM
Sept. 14	.at Virginia
Sept. 26	.at West Virginia
Oct. 5	.NORTH CAROLINA STATE
Oct. 12	.at North Carolina
Oct. 19	.WAKE FOREST (HC)
Oct. 26	.at Duke
Nov. 2	.at Clemson
Nov. 14	.GEORGIA TECH
Nov. 23	.VS. FLORIDA STATE*

*at Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami, Fla.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	.at Tulane; W, 29-10
Sept. 9	.NORTH CAROLINA; W, 32-18
Sept. 16	.WEST VIRGINIA; W, 31-17
Sept. 23	.DUKE; W, 41-28
Sept. 28	.at Georgia Tech; L, 31-3
Oct. 7	.at Wake Forest; W, 9-6
Oct. 21	.CLEMSON; L, 17-0
Oct. 28	.at Louisville; L, 31-0
Nov. 4	.at North Carolina State; W, 30-13
Nov. 11	.VIRGINIA; L, 21-18
Nov. 18	.at Florida State; L, 59-17

MILESTONE

■ Geroy Simon needs 44 receptions to break the ACC career record of 193 established last year by former teammate Jermaine Lewis.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Offensive line needs to mature.
- Team must adjust to new offensive set.
- Defense must continue to improve—especially at linebacker.



NORTH CAROLINA

FACTS

COACH: Mack Brown, 9th year, 49-43-1; 66-71-1 overall
'95 RECORD: 7-5 (4-4 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Kenan Stadium, Chapel Hill, N.C. (52,000, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS 16 (8 off., 8 def.)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Marcus Jones, DL (1st-team All America); Scott Caparelli, K/P; Mike Thomas, QB; Marcus Wall, WR; Sean Boyd, FS; Fuzzy Lee, DB; Russell Babb, OL

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Oscar Davenport, Soph., 12-22-151 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Leon Johnson, Sr., 225 carries, 963 yards, 12 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Johnson, 54
RECEIVING (YARDS): Octavus Barnes, Jr., 970
TACKLES: Kivuusama Mays, Jr., 138
SACKS: Rick Terry, Sr., 8
INTERCEPTIONS: Brian Simmons, Jr., 2
PUNTING: None
KICKING: Chris Welch, Sr., 1-2 FGs (long 48), 2-3 PATs
SCORING: Johnson, 74 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...CLEMSON
 Sept. 7 ...at Syracuse
 Sept. 21 ...GEORGIA TECH
 Sept. 28 ...at Florida State
 Oct. 5 ...at Wake Forest
 Oct. 12 ...MARYLAND (HC)
 Oct. 26 ...at Houston
 Nov. 2 ...NORTH CAROLINA STATE
 Nov. 9 ...LOUISVILLE
 Nov. 16 ...at Virginia
 Nov. 23 ...at Duke

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...SYRACUSE; L, 20-9
 Sept. 9 ...at Maryland; L, 32-18
 Sept. 21 ...at Louisville; W, 17-10
 Sept. 30 ...OHIO; W, 62-0
 Oct. 7 ...VIRGINIA; W, 22-17
 Oct. 14 ...at Georgia Tech; L, 27-25
 Oct. 21 ...WAKE FOREST; W, 31-7
 Nov. 4 ...at Clemson; L, 17-10
 Nov. 11 ...FLORIDA STATE; L, 28-12
 Nov. 18 ...DUKE; W, 28-24
 Nov. 24 ...at N.C. State; W, 30-28
 Dec. 30 ...vs. Arkansas in Carquest Bowl; W, 20-10

MILESTONE

■ Leon Johnson's 54 receptions last season brought his career total to 112, shattering the school mark for receptions by a running back, previously held by Natrone Means (61).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- A solid season from either Oscar Davenport or JUCO transfer Chris Keldorf at QB.
- Stay away from turnovers.
- Survive a tough early schedule that includes four of the five teams UNC lost to last season.

By EDDY LANDRETH

North Carolina had a fifth-year quarterback with a strong arm who was supposed to direct one of the most potent offenses in school history last season.

Instead, the Tar Heels began the year with the worst turnover margin in the nation and consecutive losses. They spent the remainder of the season trying to catch up before finishing with a victory over Arkansas in the Carquest Bowl.

This year, coach Mack Brown does not have an experienced starter at quarterback. The candidates are JUCO transfer Chris Keldorf and sophomore Oscar Davenport, who is coming off knee surgery.

"Those two guys will go into the fall neck-and-neck trying to compete for the first-team spot," Brown said. "But right now, neither one has played as a starter in a ballgame. And that scares you, especially with the opening schedule we have [against Clemson, Syracuse, Georgia Tech and Florida State]."

Brown does have Leon Johnson at tailback and a strong defense returning. The defense is led by arguably the Tar Heels' best group of linebackers since Brown's arrival at Chapel Hill.

OFFENSE: Changes occurred in the coaching staff during the off-season. Longtime offensive coordinator and running backs coach Darrell Moody left and Brown fired wide receivers coach Jim Cavanaugh. Ken Mack, a UNC alumnus who coached at Virginia, takes over for Moody, while Greg Davis, who coached the quarterbacks at Georgia, is the offensive coordinator.

The Tar Heels have a tradition of being a tailback-oriented offense, dating back to Bill Dooley's days in the 1960s. Brown plans to throw the ball more.

He isn't going to forget Johnson, the MVP in the victory over Arkansas. Johnson has run for 2,780 career yards, and his excellent hands give the Tar Heels an additional offensive threat.

Wide receiver L.C. Stevens had the best spring on the team, according to Brown. The Tar Heels



OSCAR DAVENPORT-QB

will need Stevens' contributions, because Octavus Barnes probably won't be ready for the opening game after suffering a severe knee injury against Arkansas.

DEFENSE: Defensive linemen Greg Ellis and Ricky Terry lead up front, while Kivuusama Mays, Brian Simmons and James Hamilton anchor it at linebacker. Mays made first-team All-ACC, but Simmons might have actually had a better season. All three are big hitters with quickness.

Ellis, also a first-team All-ACC selection, benefited from the presence of All America Marcus Jones at tackle. Jones, a late first-round pick of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, drew much of the attention, which freed up the quick Ellis to post seven quarterback sacks, 71 tackles and nine tackles for a loss.

The secondary is another of Brown's concern. Cornerback Terry Billups had surgery and may not be ready when the season begins Aug. 31. The Tar Heels must also replace Fuzzy Lee at the other corner and Sean Boyd at free safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Brown spent more time on these units during spring practice than in any of his previous eight seasons. Derrick DePriest, who stands 6-foot-8, will punt. Chris Welch, whose lone field goal last season was from 48 yards, is the place-kicker. Josh McGee will kick off and may handle longer field goals.

RECRUITING: The coaching staff does not believe it will have to rely on too many of the incoming freshmen this fall. Punter Brian Schmitz is one possibility. He earned second-team *USA Today* All-America honors but failed to sign with a school on national signing day. UNC then contacted him and won a quick recruiting battle.

Because the Tar Heels lack depth at tailback, Mike Simmons, brother of linebacker Brian Simmons, could get playing time.

Eddy Landreth covers the ACC for the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Chris Keldorf (Jr., 6-5, 245) Oscar Davenport (So., 6-4, 190)
RB: Leon Johnson (Sr., 6-1, 210)* Mike Geter (Jr., 5-11, 202)
RB: Chris Watson (Sr., 5-10, 230)* Jonathan Linton (Jr., 6-2, 245)
WR: Darrin Ashford (Sr., 5-11, 180) Octavus Barnes (Jr., 6-1, 182)*
WR: L.C. Stevens (So., 6-5, 208) Chuckie Parquet (So., 6-0, 160)
TE: Freddie Jones (Sr., 6-5, 255)* Ebenezer Ekuban (So., 6-4, 240)
LT: Byron Thomas (Sr., 6-4, 330)* John Surigao (So., 6-5, 275)
LG: Jerness Gethers (Sr., 6-3, 265)* Joe Ellison (Fr., 6-3, 287)
C: Jeff Saturday (Jr., 6-3, 280)* Ryan Carfley (Fr., 6-2, 275)
RG: Brian Honeycutt (Sr., 6-3, 270)* Mike Hobgood (Jr., 6-4, 275)
RT: Mike Baxter (Jr., 6-4, 290) Ryan Hoffman (Jr., 6-5, 285)

DEFENSE

DE: Greg Ellis (Jr., 6-6, 260)* Teto Simpson (So., 6-4, 240)
DT: Vonnie Holliday (Jr., 6-5, 265) Andre Purvis (Sr., 6-5, 290)
DT: Rick Terry (Sr., 6-4, 290)* Marcus Dow (So., 6-1, 260)
DE: Russell Davis (So., 6-4, 260)* Mike Pringley (So., 6-4, 240)
LB: James Hamilton (Sr., 6-5, 235)* Keith Newman (So., 6-3, 230)
LB: Kivuusama Mays (Jr., 6-4, 240)* Jamie Carrick (So., 6-3, 235)
LB: Brian Simmons (Jr., 6-4, 230)* Mark Dunn (So., 6-3, 215)
CB: Robert Williams (So., 5-11, 165) Terry Billups (Jr., 5-10, 170)*
CB: Reggie Love (Jr., 6-0, 180) Dre' Bly (Fr., 5-10, 180)
SS: Jomo Legins (So., 5-11, 177) Greg Williams (Jr., 5-11, 185)
FS: Omar Brown (Jr., 5-10, 192)* Ronald Thomas (Sr., 5-11, 185)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Chris Welch (Sr., 6-1, 175) Josh McGee (Fr., 5-10, 170)
P: Derrick DePriest (Fr., 6-8, 226) Brian Schmitz (Fr., 6-1, 160)
 (* denotes returning starter)

N.C. STATE



TREMAINE STEPHENS-RB

ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT USA

By EDDY LANDRETH

Last year, there were preseason discipline problems, then a 3-8 record without a bowl appearance for the first time in eight years, so head coach Mike O'Cain's North Carolina State players were determined to work hard in the off-season in preparation for spring practice and a reversal of fortunes.

Spring is supposed to be a time of renewal, and this club needed a fresh start. But then three key defensive players were arrested and charged with breaking into a vehicle after they were allegedly spotted smashing a car window and stealing a stereo. Brian Brooks, Chris McNeil and Steven McKnight were dismissed from the team the next day.

Jose Laureano, a third-year sophomore quarterback, noticed the incident cast a pall over practice.

"That hurt a whole lot," Laureano said. "Those three were the guys on our defense who were really pumped up during practice, making big plays. It hurt us mentally, too. The practice after that incident was so quiet. I have never heard a practice so quiet before."

OFFENSE: Laureano and Jamie Barnette, a redshirt freshman, traded snaps during the spring. The coaches had their doubts about Barnette, believing they might need to move him to another position to better utilize his skills. But Laureano continued to improve after playing for the first time last fall. Both will have some competition in August, though. The Wolfpack recruited Colin Harris, a junior college transfer from Ft. Scott (Kan.) Community College.

Tailback Tremayne Stephens (849 yards) remains the top offensive weapon and could be used even more without an experienced quarterback.

After playing as a freshman, wide receiver Torry Holt (17 catches, 261 yards) is ready to assume the role as the Wolfpack's big-play threat. Holt (6-foot-1, 186 pounds) will be joined by

Jimmy Grissett (37 catches, 570 yards, 6 TDs).

DEFENSE: The Wolfpack lost Mike Harrison (55 tackles) from a defensive line that had already been depleted by attrition, injury and recruiting mistakes. By the end of last season, the Wolfpack struggled to stop anyone from running the football, allowing opponents an average of 4.5 yards per carry.

O'Cain must also replace his best cornerback, Ricky Bell, who left school early for the NFL. And with the loss of Brooks, McNeil and McKnight, an already thin defense grew weaker. Opponents averaged 32.2 points a game last year.

"You've got to play the cards you're dealt," O'Cain said. "I've got confidence our guys can step up and play. I'm not worried, at least now. Maybe on Sept. 7, I might have a few butterflies." **SPECIAL TEAMS:** Jay Dukes returns as the punter, while Marc Primanti is back as the kicker. Dukes averaged 39.1 yards per punt last season and showed the leg strength that will allow him to be more consistent this season. Primanti proved to be an accurate kicker. He made 11 of 13 field-goal and 27 of 28 extra-point attempts.

The performance of both kickers will be crucial. Dukes must punt the ball well to force teams to drive as long as possible, while any points Primanti provides helps a team that is sure to be scratching for everything it can get.

Alvis Whitted and Holt will return kicks. Both have speed and experience.

RECRUITING: The marquee name on this list is Rahshon Spikes, a 5-11 All-America running back from Meriden, Conn. If he can play as well as Stephens did as a freshman, Stephens can take an occasional break. But the offensive and defensive lines are where N.C. State needs the most help. Look for Jeff Blanch, a junior college transfer (Glendale C.C. in Mesa, Ariz.), to play a great deal on the defensive line. Freshmen, such as Jeff Fischer and Kelly Forrest, will get a look as well.

Eddy Landreth covers the ACC for the Winston-Salem Journal.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Jose Laureano (So., 6-2, 202)	Jamie Barnette (Fr., 6-0, 181)
RB: T. Stephens (Jr., 5-11, 187)*	Rahshon Spikes (Fr., 5-11, 195)
RB: Rod Brown (Sr., 6-0, 230)*	Carlos King (Jr., 6-1, 218)
WR: Torry Holt (So., 6-1, 186)	Greg Addis (Jr., 6-1, 185)
WR: Jimmy Grissett (Sr., 5-11, 190)*	Alvis Whitted (Jr., 6-1, 182)
TE: Mark Thomas (Jr., 6-5, 222)*	Devon Smith (So., 6-5, 235)
LT: Tom Dombalis (Sr., 6-4, 271)*	Ian Rafferty (So., 6-5, 272)
LG: Alex Santos (So., 6-3, 320)	J.J. Jones (So., 6-3, 269)
C: Seamus Murphy (Jr., 6-4, 266)	Jason Groff (Jr., 6-4, 261)
RG: Lonnie Gilbert (Jr., 6-3, 268)	Patrick Dunn (Fr., 6-6, 263)
RT: Terrence Boykin (Sr., 6-7, 257)*	Todd Boyle (Fr., 6-7, 250)

DEFENSE

DE: Brad Collins (Jr., 6-6, 257)*	Tom Loughlin (Jr., 6-6, 236)
DT: Mark Lawrence (Sr., 6-2, 233)	Jeff Blanch (Jr., 6-3, 255)
DT: George Williams (Jr., 6-3, 284)*	Lateef Patterson (Jr., 6-4, 291)
DE: Darwin Walker (So., 6-3, 255)	Kyle Blalock (Jr., 6-4, 231)
LB: Bobbie Cotten (So., 6-1, 230)*	Kit Carpenter (Jr., 5-10, 216)
LB: Morocco Brown (Jr., 6-0, 229)	Tim Ramseur (Fr., 6-1, 207)
LB: Duan Everett (Jr., 6-0, 203)*	Kevin Mitchell (Fr., 6-1, 202)
CB: Rodney Redd (So., 5-10, 180)	Kevin Russell (Jr., 5-10, 163)
CB: H. Shamsid-Deen (So., 5-8, 170)*	Lloyd Harrison (Fr., 5-11, 178)
SS: Kenny Harris (Sr., 6-2, 193)*	Brandon Davis (Jr., 6-0, 201)
FS: Damon Wyche (Jr., 5-11, 192)	Jason Perry (So., 6-1, 187)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Marc Primanti (Sr., 5-7, 158)*	Chris Hensler (Jr., 5-10, 187)
P: Jay Dukes (So., 5-10, 189)*	Jason Biggs (Jr., 5-9, 182)

(* denotes returning starter)



ACC

FACTS

COACH: Mike O'Cain, 4th year, 19-16

'95 RECORD: 3-8 (2-6 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Carter-Finley Stadium, Raleigh, N.C. (52,000, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (6 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Ricky Bell, DB (left early for NFL Draft); Steve Kelm, OL (2nd-team All-ACC); Jonathan Redmond, OL (2nd-team All-ACC); Mike Harrison, DL; Mike Guffie, WR

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Jose Laureano, Soph., 28-50-355 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT

RUSHING: Tremayne Stephens, Jr., 186 carries, 849 yards, 5 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Jimmy Grissett, Sr., 37, 6 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Grissett, 570

TACKLES: Morocco Brown, Jr., 92

SACKS: Brad Collins, Jr., 3

INTERCEPTIONS: Four tied with 2 each

PUNTING: Jay Dukes, Soph., 39.1 avg.

KICKING: Marc Primanti, Sr., 11-13 FGs (long 45), 27-28 PATs

SCORING: Primanti, 60 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	at GEORGIA TECH
Sept. 19	FLORIDA STATE
Sept. 28	at Purdue
Oct. 5	at Maryland
Oct. 12	ALABAMA
Oct. 19	at Virginia
Nov. 2	at North Carolina
Nov. 9	DUKE (HC)
Nov. 16	at Clemson
Nov. 23	WAKE FOREST
Nov. 30	vs. East Carolina*

*at Carolinas Stadium, Charlotte, N.C.

1995 RESULTS

Aug. 31	at MARSHALL; W, 33-16
Sept. 9	VIRGINIA; L, 29-24
Sept. 16	at Florida State; L, 77-17
Sept. 23	BAYLOR; L, 14-0
Sept. 30	CLEMSON; L, 43-22
Oct. 7	at Alabama; L, 27-11
Oct. 21	at Duke; W, 41-38
Nov. 4	MARYLAND; L, 30-13
Nov. 11	at Georgia Tech; L, 27-19
Nov. 18	at Wake Forest; W, 52-23
Nov. 24	NORTH CAROLINA; L, 30-28

MILESTONE

■ North Carolina State has not recorded consecutive losing seasons since 1983-'85, when the Wolfpack finished 3-8 each of those three years.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Young players on defensive line need to step up.
- Inexperienced quarterbacks must make plays under game conditions.
- Win early or risk a total loss of confidence.



FACTS

COACH: George Welsh, 15th year, 98-63-3; 153-109-4 overall
'95 RECORD: 9-4 (7-1 conf.)
FINAL RANKINGS: No. 16 AP, No. 17 USA Today/CNN
HOME STADIUM: David A. Harrison III Field at Scott Stadium, Charlottesville, Va. (40,000, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (5 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Percy Ellsworth, DB (2nd-team All America); Jason Augustino, OL (1st-team All-ACC); Chris Harrison, OL (2nd-team All-ACC); Mike Groh, QB (2nd-team All-ACC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Tim Sherman, Sr., 11-17-182 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Tiki Barber, Sr., 265 carries, 1,397 yards, 14 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Germane Crowell, Jr., 27, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Crowell, 371
TACKLES: James Farrior, Sr., 122
SACKS: Duane Ashman and Jon Harris, Srs., 6 each
INTERCEPTIONS: Ronde Barber, Jr., 4
PUNTING: Will Brice, Sr., 41.2 avg.
KICKING: Rafael Garcia, Sr., 20-27 FGs (long 56)
SCORING: Tiki Barber, 96 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 ... CENTRAL MICHIGAN
 Sept. 14 ... MARYLAND
 Sept. 21 ... at Wake Forest
 Sept. 28 ... TEXAS
 Oct. 5 ... at Georgia Tech
 Oct. 19 ... NORTH CAROLINA STATE
 Oct. 26 ... at Florida State
 Nov. 2 ... at Duke
 Nov. 9 ... CLEMSON
 Nov. 16 ... NORTH CAROLINA
 Nov. 29 ... at Virginia Tech

1995 RESULTS

Aug. 26 ... at Michigan; L, 18-17
 Sept. 2 ... WILLIAM & MARY; W, 40-16
 Sept. 9 ... at N.C. State; W, 29-24
 Sept. 16 ... GEORGIA TECH; W, 41-14
 Sept. 23 ... at Clemson; W, 22-3
 Sept. 30 ... WAKE FOREST; W, 35-17
 Oct. 7 ... at North Carolina; L, 22-17
 Oct. 14 ... DUKE; W, 44-30
 Oct. 21 ... at Texas; L, 17-16
 Nov. 2 ... FLORIDA STATE; W, 33-28
 Nov. 11 ... at Maryland; W, 21-18
 Nov. 18 ... VIRGINIA TECH; L, 36-29
 Dec. 30 ... vs. Georgia in Peach Bowl; W, 34-27

MILESTONES

- Virginia's defensive unit has intercepted a pass in 29 consecutive games, a school record.
- Cornerback Ronde Barber needs six interceptions to become the ACC's career leader.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a replacement at quarterback for Mike Groh.
- Replace three starters on the offensive line.
- Plug some big holes in the secondary.

By PAUL McMULLEN

The new quarterback will work behind an inexperienced line and the secondary has been overhauled, but a couple of Barbers should ensure that Virginia doesn't have as many close shaves as it did last year.

The Barber twins of Roanoke, Va., tailback Tiki and cornerback Ronde, may be the best brother combination in college football since the McKeeveres were tearing it up for Southern Cal in the late 1950s.

The Barbers have already made a huge impression both in Charlottesville and in the ACC. Ronde had eight interceptions as a freshman, four last year, and needs six more to become the conference's career leader. Tiki began 1995 as a second-teamer, but he gained a school-record 1,397 yards. His monster performance (193 rushing yards, 311 all-purpose yards) in the Cavaliers' win over Florida State helped place him in the middle of this year's Heisman hype.

"In no way did I expect from Tiki what he did last year," Virginia coach George Welsh said. "He's got to be one of the two or three best [backs] in the country right now."

There is plenty of other returning talent, and anything less than Virginia's seventh bowl bid in eight seasons would be a disappointment. The Cavs can't stress out Welsh any more than they did last year, as they lost to Michigan and Texas on the last play and barely kept Florida State out of the end zone to become the first ACC team to beat the Seminoles since they joined the conference in 1992.

OFFENSE: Quarterbacks come and go but Virginia keeps winning, and there's no reason to doubt that the Cavaliers won't be able to replace Mike Groh, even if he was the first since 1990 to hold the position for more than one season. A second-team All-ACC selection who passed for a school-record 2,510 yards, Groh was a coach's son known for his sound fundamentals and good judgment. He'll be replaced by either senior Tim Sherman, last year's mop-up man, or sophomore Aaron Brooks.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Tim Sherman (Sr., 6-1, 207) Aaron Brooks (So., 6-3, 189)
RB: Tiki Barber (Sr., 5-10, 195)* Anthony Southern (Fr., 6-0, 215)
RB: Darrell Medley (Sr., 6-2, 235)* Charles Kirby (Jr., 6-1, 237)
WR: Derrick Byrd (Jr., 6-3, 196) Terrence Wilkins (So., 5-9, 181)
WR: Germane Crowell (Jr., 6-4, 201) Bryan Owen (Jr., 6-0, 175)
TE: Walt Dery (Sr., 6-5, 248)* Casey Crawford (Fr., 6-6, 228)
LT: D. Karczewski (Sr., 6-5, 270)* Mike Kelly (Sr., 6-4, 285)
LG: Jeremy Raley (Sr., 6-3, 270)* Noel LaMontagne (Fr., 6-4, 291)
C: Tom Locklin (Sr., 6-4, 282)* Matt Link (Jr., 6-3, 277)
RG: Trevor Britton (Jr., 6-3, 283) Darren Garland (So., 6-4, 284)
RT: Robert Hunt (So., 6-3, 275) Julius Williams (Jr., 6-3, 290)

DEFENSE

DE: Jon Harris (Sr., 6-8, 258)* Travis Griffith (Fr., 6-3, 239)
DT: Tony Dingle (So., 6-3, 282) Johnny Shivers (So., 6-5, 274)
DT: Todd White (Sr., 6-2, 265)* Maurice Anderson (Fr., 6-4, 260)
DE: Duane Ashman (Sr., 6-4, 268)* Patrick Kerney (So., 6-5, 236)
LB: James Farrior (Sr., 6-2, 229)* Shannon Taylor (Fr., 6-3, 231)
LB: Dillon Taylor (Fr., 6-3, 243) Wali Rainer (So., 6-2, 209)
LB: Jamie Sharper (Sr., 6-3, 238)* Jami'h Rainer (Fr., 6-1, 204)
CB: Ronde Barber (Jr., 5-10, 180)* Stephen Phelan (Jr., 5-10, 185)
CB: Sam McKiver (Sr., 5-8, 186) Joe Williams (Jr., 5-11, 172)
SS: A. Poindexter (So., 6-1, 202)* Wally Elegbe (Fr., 6-4, 197)
FS: Marcus Bullett (Fr., 6-1, 197) Joe Williams (Jr., 5-11, 172)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Rafael Garcia (Sr., 5-11, 195)* Whitney Magers (So., 5-5, 127)
P: Will Brice (Sr., 6-5, 204)* Frank Rotella (Jr., 5-11, 193)

(* denotes returning starter)

VIRGINIA



TIKI BARBER-RB

"Both are really good athletes. Quick, with strong arms. But can they do the little things that made Groh so effective?" Welsh asked. "I'll probably wait until after our first scrimmage in August to name a starter."

Whoever wins the job won't have the benefit of a veteran line like Groh did. Center Tom Locklin and left guard Jeremy Raley are the only starters back.

DEFENSE: Second in the nation with 25 interceptions. Eighth in turnover margin. Tenth against the run. In other words, 1995 was a typical season for Virginia, and the Cavaliers expect more of the same, despite Welsh's concerns about his secondary.

Virginia graduated two safeties and a cornerback who combined for 16 interceptions, but Ronde Barber will start at corner for the third straight year. Joe Williams lettered and Anthony Poindexter will stay exclusively at safety. Poindexter had knee surgery in April 1995 but had six tackles for losses as a redshirt freshman and made the initial hit on Warrick Dunn at the goal line to preserve the Cavs' upset of Florida State. Jamie Sharper and James Farrior return at outside linebacker, where they combined for 132 solo tackles.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Virginia has some of the best specialists in the nation. Senior Will Brice, who single-handedly controlled field position in the win over the Seminoles, placed 26 punts inside the 20-yard line, including six inside the 5. Senior Rafael Garcia hit 20 field goals—second in the nation—including a 56-yarder against Texas.

RECRUITING: The Cavaliers emphasized receivers, running backs and defensive backs, as 14 of their 20 signees play those positions. The best may be Thomas Jones, a running back from Appalachia, Va., who is the second-leading rusher in state history. Defensive back Johnny Ponder of Jacksonville, Fla., could see action right away at free safety.

Paul McMullen covers the ACC for the Baltimore Sun.

WAKE FOREST



ACC



D'ANGELO SOLOMON-CB

GRAD JONES/SPORT USA

By PAUL McMULLEN

When you're in charge of a program whose history includes only three seasons with eight wins, it's easy to be patient. What other choice does Jim Caldwell have?

Two years ago, Caldwell played 12 true freshmen. Last year, that number dipped to three. He redshirted 20 rookies, as well as four of the sophomores who were hurried into action the year before. The Demon Deacons went winless in the ACC for the second time in the 1990s and were outscored by more than two touchdowns per game. But Caldwell felt progress was made in the maturity department.

"We absolutely bit the bullet," Caldwell said. "To get headed in the right direction, to get to the point where we want to be, we have to start getting players into their fifth year."

The Demon Deacons are growing up, but can they improve on their worst record since 1978? Can they even become a middle-of-the-road team in the ACC, where Caldwell's three-year record is 2-22? If the Demon Deacons are going to turn some of their intangible off-field gains into wins on it, they'll have to learn how to stop the run and how to run the ball themselves.

OFFENSE: Wake Forest finished dead last in Division I-A in rushing. When it became painfully apparent just how weak the Demon Deacons were on the ground and halftime deficits became commonplace, Caldwell let quarterback Rusty LaRue loose. A benchwarmer to Brian Kuklick the first two games of the season, LaRue completed 146 passes for 1,524 yards in the last three games.

Kuklick, who played in seven games as a true freshman in 1994, nearly rallied the Demon Deacons to victory in the 1995 opener. He started the following week but broke his right arm and was redshirted.

Seven of the eight players who caught 15 or more passes last season return, but Wake Forest has to spend less time in the air and more on the

ground. Senior running back John Lewis and junior Herman Lewis had 424 of the Demon Deacons' 561 rushing yards last year.

"I don't care how good the backs are if the offensive line isn't producing," Caldwell said. "We have to become more physical on both lines. If you don't, you lose."

DEFENSE: Wake Forest graduated linebacker Tucker Grace, who earned first-team All-ACC honors, but 17 of the next 21 tacklers return.

"Every year we've had a linebacker who was among the upper echelon in the conference," Caldwell said. "More than likely, that's going to be Kelvin Moses this year."

Undersized for an inside linebacker, Moses was in on 101 tackles as a redshirt freshman. D'Angelo Solomon, Jeffrey Muires, Terrence Suber and DaLawn Parrish, one of the three true freshmen who played last year, finished among the Demon Deacons' top 10 tacklers. All play in the secondary, however, and Caldwell would like to see their opportunities for tackles lessen.

Junior tackle Robert Fatzinger has started 18 straight games, but, after him, Caldwell is still looking for the right combination on the line.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Freshman Tripp Moore takes over at punter for Mike Strazzeri, who was kept busy last year. Bill Hollows has kicked the last two seasons, but he made just 6 of 14 field goals last year and will be challenged by true freshman Matt Burdick. Marlon Estes, a standout receiver and kick returner, graduated, but he should be effectively replaced by junior Myles Savage, who averaged 27.6 yards per return last season.

RECRUITING: Caldwell signed 16 players, and Burdick isn't the only one he'll be tempted to play immediately. Linebacker Marlon Curtis was the defensive player of the year in the Washington, D.C. area. Offensive lineman Chris Blank of New Jersey was a SuperPrep All America.

Paul McMullen is a staff writer with the Baltimore Sun.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Brian Kuklick (So., 6-3, 196)	David Cerchio (Jr., 6-4, 212)
RB: John Lewis (Sr., 5-10, 228)*	Herman Lewis (Jr., 5-8, 182)
RB: Wandé Shaw (So., 6-1, 229)*	Gardell Chavis (Sr., 6-0, 231)
WR: Thabiti Davis (Jr., 6-3, 204)	Dan Ballou (Sr., 5-11, 162)*
WR: Darrell Braswell (Jr., 5-10, 153)	Desmond Clark (So., 6-3, 223)
TE: Joe Zelenka (So., 6-5, 254)	William Clark (Sr., 6-3, 215)*
LT: Jeff Flowe (So., 6-6, 293)	Brian Walls (Fr., 6-4, 269)
LG: Doug Marsigli (Sr., 6-5, 290)*	Sam Settar (Fr., 6-4, 297)
C: Bill Leeder (Sr., 6-3, 306)*	Rob Hyman (Jr., 6-4, 264)
RG: Taris Clark (Jr., 6-3, 276)	Chris Gaskell (Jr., 6-4, 288)
RT: Tony Yarnall (Sr., 6-4, 281)*	Brian Wolverton (Fr., 6-5, 260)

DEFENSE

DE: Kelvin Jones (So., 6-1, 260)	Rufus Taylor (Fr., 6-3, 252)
DT: Robert Fatzinger (Jr., 6-4, 266)*	Kelvin Shackleford (Fr., 6-1, 267)
DT: Aljamont Joyner (Jr., 6-3, 296)	Fred Robbins (Fr., 6-5, 313)
DE: Harold Grogg (Sr., 6-4, 260)	Clinton Wilburn (Fr., 6-4, 275)
LB: David Zadel (Jr., 6-5, 234)*	Mark Makovec (So., 6-1, 206)
LB: Kelvin Moses (So., 6-2, 216)*	Marquis Taylor (Jr., 6-2, 231)
LB: Jon Mannon (So., 6-2, 218)	Dustin Lyman (Fr., 6-4, 237)
CB: D'Angelo Solomon (Jr., 5-8, 164)*	Dameon Daniel (So., 5-9, 173)
CB: Major Griffey (Sr., 6-0, 179)	Reggie Austin (Fr., 5-11, 167)
SS: Terrence Suber (Sr., 5-10, 179)*	Tom Stuetzer (Sr., 5-11, 190)
FS: DaLawn Parrish (So., 5-11, 185)	Jeffrey Muires (So., 6-2, 180)*

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Bill Hollows (Sr., 6-1, 221)*	Matt Burdick (Fr., 6-0, 175)
P: Tripp Moore (So., 6-2, 211)	Bill Hollows (Sr., 6-1, 221)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Jim Caldwell, 4th year, 6-27

'95 RECORD: 1-10 (0-8 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Groves Stadium, Winston-Salem, N.C. (31,500, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (7 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Tucker Grace, LB (1st-team All-ACC); Elton Ndoma-Ogarm OL; Rusty LaRue, QB; Marlon Estes, WR

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Brian Kuklick, Soph., 15-28-235 yards, 2 TDs

RUSHING: John Lewis, Sr., 110 carries, 304 yards, 5 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Darrell Braswell, Jr., 51, 1 TD

RECEIVING (YARDS): Braswell, 557

TACKLES: Kelvin Moses, Soph., 101

SACKS: DaLawn Parrish, Soph., and Moses, 2 each

INTERCEPTIONS: D'Angelo Solomon, Jr., 3

PUNTING: None

KICKING: Bill Hollows, Sr., 6-14 FGs (long 37), 9-11 PATs

SCORING: Lewis, 48 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 . . . APPALACHIAN STATE

Sept. 7 . . . NORTHWESTERN

Sept. 14 . . . at Georgia Tech

Sept. 21 . . . VIRGINIA

Sept. 28 . . . at Clemson

Oct. 5 . . . NORTH CAROLINA

Oct. 19 . . . at Maryland

Oct. 26 . . . NAVY (HC)

Nov. 9 . . . vs. FLORIDA STATE*

Nov. 16 . . . DUKE

Nov. 23 . . . at North Carolina State

*at Citrus Bowl, Orlando, Fla.

1995 RESULTS

Aug. 31 . . . APPALACHIAN STATE; L, 24-22

Sept. 9 . . . at Tulane; L, 35-9

Sept. 16 . . . CLEMSON; L, 24-19

Sept. 23 . . . at Navy; W, 30-7

Sept. 30 . . . at Virginia; L, 35-17

Oct. 7 . . . MARYLAND; L, 9-6

Oct. 14 . . . at Florida State; L, 72-13

Oct. 21 . . . at North Carolina; L, 31-7

Oct. 28 . . . at Duke; L, 42-26

Nov. 4 . . . GEORGIA TECH; L, 24-23

Nov. 18 . . . NORTH CAROLINA STATE; L, 52-23

MILESTONE

■ The Demon Deacons will attempt to win more than one game in the ACC for just the second time since 1988.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Develop a running game.
- Get stronger on the defensive line.
- Keep quarterback Brian Kuklick healthy.

4 BIG EAST

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

DONOVAN McNABB, QB, SYRACUSE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

CORNELL BROWN, DE, VIRGINIA TECH

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR:

NATHANIEL WEBSTER, LB, MIAMI (FLA.)

QB IS HARD TO MC-NABB

West Virginia coach Don Nehlen looked out on the Carrier Dome field last October and saw Major Harris reincarnated. Unfortunately for Nehlen, he wasn't a Mountaineer and he was only an 18-year-old freshman. That means Nehlen and the rest of the Big East will have to chase Syracuse quarterback Donovan McNabb around for three more years.

"He's a great player, a real impact player," said Nehlen, who saw McNabb at his scrambling best in Syracuse's 22-0 victory, a game highlighted by McNabb TD passes of 45 yards and 96 yards. "He's going to be as good as this league has ever had."

And that's some pretty good company. Harris had the Mountaineers one victory from a national championship in 1988, a year

after Syracuse quarterback Don McPherson led the Orange to an 11-0-1 record and was voted the Heisman Trophy runner-up. Gino Torretta won a Heisman at Miami (Fla.) in 1992, and Marvin Graves was the MVP of three bowl wins at Syracuse.

Now, in the mold of Graves and Harris, there's McNabb.

"He's very, very smart and learns very well, as Marvin Graves did," Syracuse coach Paul Pasqualoni said of McNabb. "I think in terms of size, strength and quickness, Don is probably a bit more like Major. He was very quick, very explosive and very strong. Marvin wasn't quite as big. But he [McNabb] is like Marvin in that he can drop back and throw the ball."

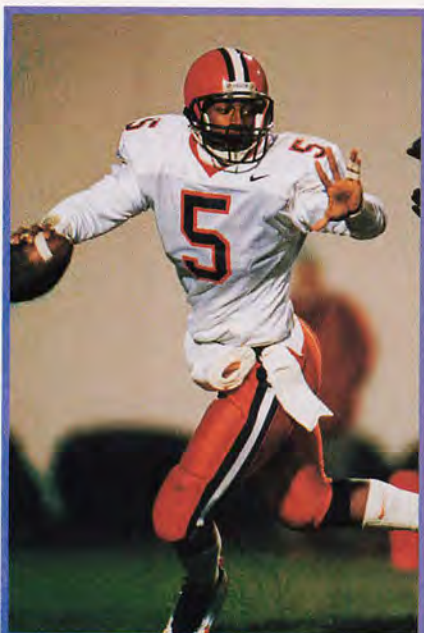
McNabb was considered one of the best option quarterbacks in the nation coming out of suburban Chicago's Mt. Carmel High in 1993. Nebraska wanted to groom him as Tommie Frazier's successor, but a chance to play immediately at Syracuse and also play basketball (McNabb was a member of this year's Final Four Syracuse team) lured him East.

After redshirting, McNabb won a three-year battle for the quarterback job last season and led the 'Cuse to a 9-3 record and a 41-0 demolition of Clemson in the Gator Bowl. Along the way, McNabb became the most efficient freshman passer in NCAA history, throwing for 1,991 yards, 16 touchdowns and just six interceptions, and was a unanimous selection as the Big East's Rookie of the Year.

McNabb credits Syracuse's freeze-option attack, which he also ran at Mt. Carmel, a high school that has produced some tremendous athletes—Arizona Cardinal rookie Simeon Rice, N.Y. Giants wide receiver Chris Calloway and Kentucky basketball star Antoine Walker among them.

"There's so much big-play capability in our offense," McNabb said. "You kind of key on one thing, but we bring something to you that you might not know about. You just try to sit back, execute and look for a big play."

—Dave Allen



Syracuse QB Donovan McNabb put on an MVP performance (13-of-23 passing, 309 yds., 3 TDs) in last season's Gator Bowl.

1. SYRACUSE
2. MIAMI (FLA.)
3. VIRGINIA TECH
4. WEST VIRGINIA
5. BOSTON COLLEGE
6. PITTSBURGH
7. TEMPLE
8. RUTGERS

ALL-BIG EAST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
QB	DONOVAN McNABB	SOPH.	6-1/208	SYRACUSE
RB	DANNY FERGUSON	Sr.	6-0/200	MIAMI (FLA.)
RB	BILLY WEST	Jr.	5-10/205	PITTSBURGH
WR	R. VANTERPOOL	Sr.	5-11/185	WEST VIRGINIA
WR	YATIL GREEN	Jr.	6-3/202	MIAMI (FLA.)
TE	TODD POLLACK	Jr.	6-4/237	BOSTON COLLEGE
OL	MARK NORI	Sr.	6-4/294	BOSTON COLLEGE
OL	JAY HAGOOD	Sr.	6-4/292	VIRGINIA TECH
OL	TONY ORLANDINI	Jr.	6-5/280	PITTSBURGH
OL	BILLY CONATY	Sr.	6-3/296	VIRGINIA TECH
OL	K.C. JONES	Sr.	6-2/260	MIAMI (FLA.)

DEFENSE

Pos.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
DL	CORNELL BROWN	Sr.	6-2/240	VIRGINIA TECH
DL	KENNY HOLMES	Sr.	6-4/274	MIAMI (FLA.)
DL	KENARD LANG	Jr.	6-4/251	MIAMI (FLA.)
DL	ANTONIO ANDERSON	Sr.	6-7/307	SYRACUSE
LB	CANUTE CURTIS	Sr.	6-2/250	WEST VIRGINIA
LB	ANTWAUNE PONDS	Jr.	6-1/232	SYRACUSE
LB	A. SINGLETON	Sr.	6-3/221	TEMPLE
DB	KEVIN ABRAMS	Sr.	5-8/156	SYRACUSE
DB	DARYL PORTER	Sr.	5-9/189	BOSTON COLLEGE
DB	TORRIAN GRAY	Sr.	6-0/192	VIRGINIA TECH
DB	DONOVIN DARIUS	Jr.	6-1/204	SYRACUSE

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
PK	CHRIS FERENCIK	SOPH.	5-10/170	PITTSBURGH
P	SEAN REALI	Sr.	5-10/192	SYRACUSE
RS	KENYATTA WATSON	Sr.	5-10/176	BOSTON COLLEGE

3 BIGGEST GAMES

1. VIRGINIA TECH AT SYRACUSE, SEPT. 28: TECH DE CORNELL BROWN CHASING ORANGE QB DONOVAN McNABB ALL OVER THE CARRIER DOME. SHOULD BE LOTS OF FUN.

2. FLORIDA STATE AT MIAMI (FLA.), OCT. 12: THE LAST TIME THE 'NOLES BEAT THE 'CANES AT THE ORANGE BOWL, JIMMY JOHNSON WAS MIAMI'S HEAD COACH (1984).

3. MIAMI (FLA.) AT SYRACUSE, NOV. 30: THE DOME HAS PLAYED HOST TO U2, VAN HALEN AND THE ROLLING STONES. BUT NEVER DOES IT GET ANY LOUDER THAN SYRACUSE-MIAMI.

BOSTON COLLEGE



OMARI WALKER-RB

DAMIAN STROHMEYER/ALLSPORT USA

By MICHAEL BRADLEY

Boston College is clearly Dan Henning's team now, and it's time for him to create an identity for the Eagles or risk losing all the momentum that carried over from predecessor Tom Coughlin's outstanding tenure. BC stumbled to a 4-8 record last season, burdened by injuries and a murderous non-conference schedule, and looked lifeless at times.

But credit Henning for charging ahead with his own agenda. In the wake of last year's pitiful defensive performance (BC allowed 384.3 yards and 26.8 points per game), Henning revamped that side of the ball. New coordinator Phil Elmassian promises the same kind of attacking defense favored by college football's best teams, complete with eight-man fronts and solo coverage challenges for the secondary. The offense will feature more outside speed, a problem in the past. **OFFENSE:** When quarterback Mark Hartsell was on, the Eagles looked good. When he revamped, so did BC. "His play vacillated a great deal," said Henning, "and that's also what happened with our football team."

That won't be a problem this year, since Hartsell decided to forego his final season for a shot at the NFL. Though his loss hurts, the Eagles don't have a more well-stocked position. Hartsell's replacement comes from among junior Matt Hasselbeck and sophomore Scott Mutryn, a highly regarded player who was redshirted last year. Also in reserve are hot prospects David Robbins and Tim Hasselbeck, Matt's brother.

The new starter will be aided by a fortified receiving corps, including veterans Kenyatta Watson and Steve Everson and youngsters Brandon King, Dennis Harding and Derrick Crittenden. The ground game could be potent, provided sophomore Mike Cloud recovers from surgery to remove a cyst from his big toe that kept him out of spring drills.

He has big-play potential. Junior Omari Walker is back to handle the rough stuff inside.

The line loses two top performers in Pete Kendall and center Tim O'Brien but returns Mark Nori, Dan Oriskovich and Doug Brzezinski. Jon Miles is the top candidate to replace Kendall, while junior John Hostetler and redshirt frosh Damien Woody battle for the center position.

DEFENSE: Elmassian's "46" defense features plenty of eight-man fronts, and that will force Henning to get creative along the line. "The priority is speed, so we'll take some linebacker-types, bulk them up and put them down in three-point stances," Henning said.

Expect senior Stalin Colinet to be an inside anchor and Erik Storz and Willie Wright will be the primary outside leads. Brian Maye leads the linebacker corps. Senior Daryl Porter will move from cornerback to free safety in the new scheme. He'll team with sophomore Kiernan Speight, freshman Tim Davis and junior Shalom Tolefree. **SPECIAL TEAMS:** Sophomore Jason Malecki averaged 39.5 yards per punt and helped the Eagles finish third in the Big East in net punting. The kicking situation isn't so encouraging. Dan McGuire, who made just five of 14 field-goal attempts, graduated, leaving junior Chris Hackett and redshirt freshman John Matich to vie for the job.

Watson is one of the nation's top return men and brought back two punts for touchdowns in '95.

RECRUITING: BC landed one of the Big East's top three classes, including high-profile quarterback signees Robbins, the 13th Berwick (Pa.) High passer to receive a Division I scholarship, and Hasselbeck. Other expected standouts are Pedro Cirino, who could play either running back or in the secondary, linemen Michael Cook and Chris Hovan, speedy receiver Ramon Johnson and linebacker Ryan Reckley.

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE	
QB: Scott Mutryn (So., 6-3, 205)	Matt Hasselbeck (Jr., 6-4, 209)
RB: Omari Walker (Jr., 5-10, 212)*	Mike Cloud (So., 5-11, 196)
WR: K. Watson (Sr., 5-10, 180)*	Dennis Harding (So., 6-1, 178)
WR: Steve Everson (Jr., 5-10, 162)*	Brandon King (Fr., 5-11, 187)
TE: Todd Pollack (Jr., 6-4, 237)*	Rob Tardio (So., 6-4, 234)
TE: Scott Dragos (Jr., 6-3, 243)*	Michael Hemmert (Jr., 6-3, 241)
LT: Dan Oriskovich (Sr., 6-3, 293)*	Noah LaRose (So., 6-6, 276)
LG: Doug Brzezinski (So., 6-4, 296)*	Andy Mitcham (So., 6-4, 273)
C: Damien Woody (Fr., 6-3, 281)	John Hostetler (Jr., 6-3, 273)
RG: Mark Nori (Sr., 6-4, 294)*	Butch Palaza (Fr., 6-4, 274)
RT: Jonathan Miles (So., 6-5, 273)	Darnell Alford (Fr., 6-4, 316)
DEFENSE	
DE: Erik Storz (So., 6-2, 226)*	Rupert English (Sr., 6-1, 243)
DT: Nick Gianacacos (Sr., 6-4, 269)*	Mike Willetts (Fr., 6-4, 259)
DT: Stalin Colinet (Sr., 6-6, 259)*	John Coleman (Sr., 6-2, 279)
DE: Willie Wright (So., 6-2, 211)	Greg Fisher (So., 6-2, 242)
LB: Greg Bartlett (So., 6-0, 193)	Bill Varrichio (Jr., 6-0, 196)
LB: Brian Maye (Jr., 6-3, 227)	Matt Haff (Sr., 6-3, 234)*
LB: Markell Blount (Jr., 6-2, 215)	Bobby Edmonds (So., 6-1, 227)
CB: Tim Davis (Fr., 5-9, 185)	Pat Phelts (Fr., 5-10, 185)
CB: Kiernan Speight (So., 5-8, 166)	Paul Cary (Jr., 5-7, 149)
SS: Shalom Tolefree (Jr., 5-9, 177)	Craig Genuardo (Jr., 6-2, 188)
FS: Daryl Porter (Sr., 5-9, 189)*	Billy Gustin (So., 6-1, 193)
SPECIAL TEAMS	
K: Chris Hackett (Jr., 5-10, 181)	John Matich (Fr., 6-2, 194)
P: Jason Malecki (So., 6-2, 210)*	Ron Bose (So., 6-0, 191)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Dan Henning, 3rd year, 11-12-1
'95 RECORD: 4-8 (4-3 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Alumni Stadium, Chestnut Hill, Mass. (44,500, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (8 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Pete Kendall, OL (1st-team All-Big East); Tim Morabito, DL (1st-team All-Big East); Mark Hartsell, QB (left early for NFL Draft); Tim O'Brien, C; Rob Clifford, DB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Matt Hasselbeck, Jr., 27-60-280 yards, 2 TDs, 7 INTs
RUSHING: Mike Cloud, Soph., 102 carries, 626 yards, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Steve Everson, Jr., 42, 1 TD
RECEIVING (YARDS): Everson, 557
TACKLES: Matt Haff, Sr., 94
SACKS: Nick Gianacacos, Sr., and Erik Storz, Soph., 5 each
INTERCEPTIONS: Four tied with one each
PUNTING: Jason Malecki, Soph., 39.5 avg.
KICKING: None
SCORING: Omari Walker, Jr., 36 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 . . . at Hawaii
Sept. 14 . . . VIRGINIA TECH
Sept. 21 . . . at Michigan
Sept. 28 . . . NAVY
Oct. 5 . . . at West Virginia
Oct. 12 . . . at Cincinnati
Oct. 19 . . . RUTGERS
Oct. 26 . . . SYRACUSE
Oct. 31 . . . at Pittsburgh
Nov. 9 . . . NOTRE DAME
Nov. 16 . . . TEMPLE
Nov. 23 . . . at Miami (Fla.)

1995 RESULTS

Aug. 27 . . . vs. Ohio State in Kickoff Classic; L, 38-6*
Sept. 7 . . . at Virginia Tech; W, 20-14
Sept. 16 . . . MICHIGAN; L, 23-13
Sept. 30 . . . at Michigan State; L, 25-21
Oct. 7 . . . PITTSBURGH; W, 17-0
Oct. 14 . . . WEST VIRGINIA; L, 31-19
Oct. 21 . . . ARMY; L, 49-7
Oct. 28 . . . at Notre Dame; L, 20-10
Nov. 4 . . . at Temple; W, 10-7
Nov. 11 . . . MIAMI (FLA.); L, 17-14
Nov. 18 . . . at Syracuse; L, 58-29
Nov. 24 . . . at Rutgers; W, 41-38
* at Giants Stadium, E. Rutherford, N.J.

MILESTONE

■ During his NFL and college career, Dan Henning has coached Super Bowl champion quarterbacks Joe Namath, Joe Theismann, Bob Griese, Doug Williams and Jim McMahon.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a reliable replacement for Mark Hartsell at quarterback.
- Replace Pete Kendall and Tim O'Brien along the offensive line.
- Defense must develop confidence in Phil Elmassian's new scheme.

BIG EAST



MIAMI (FLA.)

BIG EAST

FACTS

COACH: Butch Davis, 2nd year, 8-3
'95 RECORD: 8-3 (6-1 conf.)
FINAL RANKING: No. 20 AP
HOME STADIUM: Orange Bowl, Miami, Fla.
 (74,712, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 17 (7 off., 10 def.)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Ray Lewis, LB (1st-team All America, left early for NFL Draft); Alan Symonette, OL (2nd-team All-Big East)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Ryan Clement, Jr., 119-201-1,638 yards, 7 TDs, 10 INTs
RUSHING: Danyell Ferguson, Sr., 212 carries, 1,069 yards, 12 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Yatil Green, Jr., 25, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Green, 476
TACKLES: James Burgess, Sr., 87
SACKS: Kenny Holmes, Sr., 6.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Three tied with two
PUNTING: None
KICKING: None
SCORING: Ferguson, 78 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...at Memphis
 Sept. 7 ...THE CITADEL
 Sept. 12 ...at Rutgers
 Sept. 28 ...PITTSBURGH
 Oct. 12 ...FLORIDA STATE
 Oct. 19 ...EAST CAROLINA
 Oct. 26 ...at West Virginia
 Nov. 2 ...at Temple
 Nov. 16 ...VIRGINIA TECH (HC)
 Nov. 23 ...BOSTON COLLEGE
 Nov. 30 ...at Syracuse

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...at UCLA: L, 31-8
 Sept. 9 ...FLORIDA A&M: W, 49-3
 Sept. 23 ...at Virginia Tech: L, 13-7
 Oct. 7 ...at Florida State: L, 41-17
 Oct. 14 ...RUTGERS: W, 56-21
 Oct. 21 ...at Pittsburgh: W, 17-16
 Oct. 28 ...TEMPLE: W, 36-12
 Nov. 4 ...BAYLOR: W, 35-14
 Nov. 11 ...at Boston College: W, 17-14
 Nov. 18 ...WEST VIRGINIA: W, 17-12
 Nov. 25 ...SYRACUSE: W, 35-24

MILESTONES

- Danyell Ferguson needs 1,502 yards to become Miami's all-time leading rusher.
- Another winning season would give the Hurricanes 17 in a row, a school record.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- QB Ryan Clement must make better decisions before and after the snap.
- Center K.C. Jones and OG Ricky Perry must return at full strength from their 1995 injuries.
- The defensive line must improve its ability to stuff the run.

By MICHAEL BRADLEY

It has come to this. After nearly a decade of frightening and sometimes appalling the college football world with its bold play and brash behavior, Miami (Fla.) is now a sleeper. One can no longer dismiss the Big East as Miami and the Seven Dwarfs, inking the 'Canes into the top spot and then arguing about the runners-up.

"Until we go out and demonstrate we can beat quality football teams, we can't be considered a great football team," second-year coach Butch Davis said. "We have two large challenges—playing well on the road and beating some top opponents."

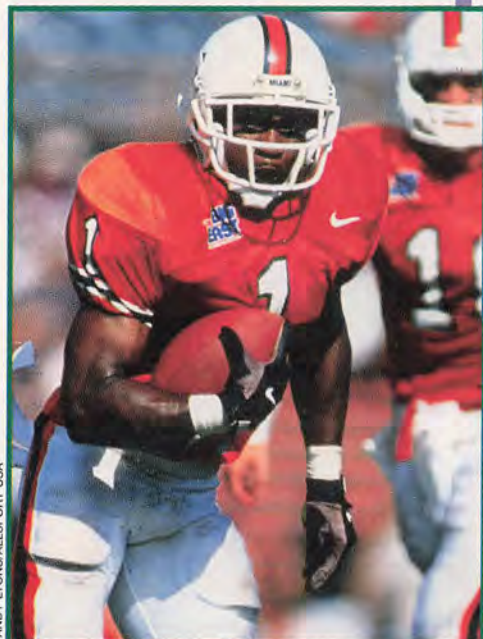
There is some good news in South Florida to help Davis' quest. Miami returns 17 starters from last year's 8-3 club that finished the season with seven straight victories. There are plenty of backups, too, among the 54 lettermen back on campus.

And though the 'Canes were allowed to sign just 12 recruits, the probation sentence handed down by the NCAA was lighter than some predicted and allows Miami to participate in post-season play in 1996. A friendly early schedule should afford the 'Canes a quick break from the blocks.

OFFENSE: Danyell Ferguson returns to lead a balanced attack, something that hasn't always been a Miami offensive staple. Ferguson (1,069 yards) became just the second Hurricane to top the 1,000-yard plateau and presents a good combination of speed and strength.

But Miami isn't Nebraska, which means junior Ryan Clement must continue the maturation process he began last year. Clement went 7-1 in his eight starts in 1995 but threw three more interceptions (10) than touchdowns (7).

Clement has some fine targets on the outside, most notably junior Yatil Green. A huge blow was dealt during spring practice when senior Jammi German injured his knee and was lost for the season. Injuries along the offensive front forced Miami to use a variety of performers last year, many of whom are back in 1996. Should guard



DANYELL FERGUSON-RB

Ricky Perry and center K.C. Jones return from knee injuries, this will be a formidable unit.

DEFENSE: The Hurricanes lose only one player from last year's defense, but he just happened to be their top performer—middle linebacker Ray Lewis, who opted for the NFL a year ahead of schedule. Davis moved James Burgess (87 tackles) inside to take Lewis' spot but isn't sure yet how the senior will handle the new responsibilities.

Davis switched Twan Russell (72 tackles) to Burgess' weak-side spot and reported the speedy senior is made for the position. Senior Tony Coley (39 tackles) will play the strong side. Ends Kenny Holmes (6.5 sacks) and Kenard Lang (3.5 sacks) are the leaders of the experienced Hurricane front, but Davis needs a couple of run-stuffers at tackle—opponents rushed for 183 yards a game against them. Incumbents Denny Fortney and Marvin Davis must improve considerably or they'll lose work to youngsters.

SPECIAL TEAMS: If redshirt freshman Andy Crosland's left leg ever gets sore, the Hurricanes are in big trouble. Crosland will handle the punting, kickoff and all placement chores this season. While Crosland is an unproven commodity, kick-blocking specialist Tremain Mack isn't. He got a piece of six different kicks last year to lead a special-teams contingent that blocked or deflected a school-record 12 kicks.

RECRUITING: With only 12 scholarships available, the Hurricanes concentrated on defense and speed. DLs Damione Lewis of Sulphur Springs, Texas, and Brian Stinson of DeLand, Fla., are both excellent pass rushers. Linebacker Nathaniel Webster was a second-team *USA Today* All America, and running back James Jackson gained more than 1,700 yards during a post-graduate year at Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy.

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Ryan Clement (Jr., 6-2, 200)* Scott Covington (So., 6-3, 198)
 RB: Danyell Ferguson (Sr., 6-0, 200)* Dyrall McMillan (So., 6-0, 215)
 RB: Carlo Joseph (So., 6-1, 218) Bryan Bippen (So., 6-5, 232)
 WR: Yatil Green (Jr., 6-3, 204)* Magic Benton (So., 6-1, 173)
 WR: Omar Rolle (So., 6-0, 178) J. Chambers (Sr., 6-1, 184)
 TE: Gerard Daphnis (Sr., 6-3, 260) Robert Hall (Fr., 6-6, 271)
 LT: Kerlin Blaise (Jr., 6-5, 281)* J. Johnson (Jr., 6-4, 294)
 LG: R. Mercier (So., 6-4, 273)* Carlos Callejas (Jr., 6-4, 277)
 C: K.C. Jones (Sr., 6-2, 260)* Mike Wehner (Jr., 6-5, 284)
 RG: Ricky Perry (Sr., 6-7, 345) Freeman Brown (Jr., 6-8, 331)
 RT: J. Ina (Sr., 6-3, 289)* S. Abdul-Majid (Jr., 6-6, 310)

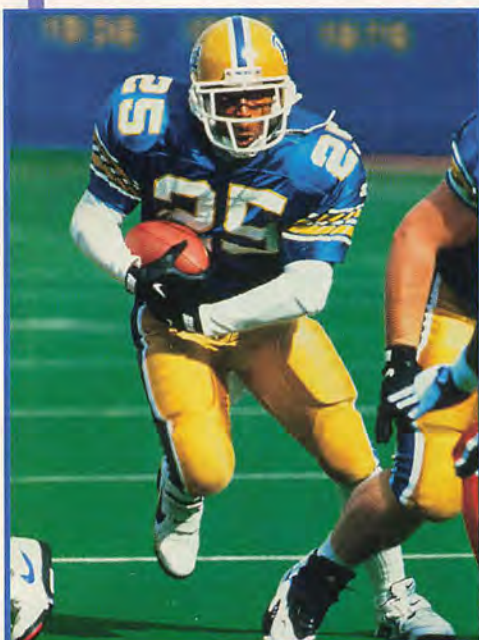
DEFENSE

DE: Kenny Holmes (Sr., 6-4, 274)* Derrick Ham (So., 6-5, 237)
 DT: Denny Fortney (Jr., 6-4, 249)* Nelson Smith (So., 6-4, 269)
 DT: Marvin Davis (Sr., 6-2, 267)* Chad Pegues (So., 6-2, 272)
 DE: Kenard Lang (Jr., 6-4, 251)* Booker Pickett (Sr., 6-3, 241)
 LB: Twan Russell (Sr., 6-2, 212)* Jeff Taylor (Jr., 6-2, 225)
 LB: James Burgess (Sr., 6-0, 218)* Cliff Jackson (So., 6-2, 219)
 LB: Tony Coley (Sr., 6-3, 220) Michael Smith (Fr., 6-5, 202)
 CB: Earl Little (Sr., 6-1, 180)* Nate Brooks (So., 6-0, 164)
 CB: Carlos Jones (Sr., 5-11, 173)* Nick Ward (So., 5-11, 174)
 SS: Tremain Mack (Jr., 6-0, 191)* Jack Hallmon (Sr., 5-10, 186)
 FS: Chris Gibson (Sr., 6-0, 182)* Marcus Wimberly (Sr., 6-0, 192)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Andy Crosland (Fr., 6-3, 196) Jorge Gaitan (So., 5-8, 219)
 P: Andy Crosland (Fr., 6-3, 196) Gaston Suzal (Fr., 5-10, 175)
 (* denotes returning starter)

PITTSBURGH



KEN WHITE/ALLSPORT USA

DEMETRIUS HARRIS-RB/WR

By MICHAEL BRADLEY

It didn't take this long the first time. When Johnny Majors entered his fourth season at Pittsburgh during his initial tenure (1973-'76) in the Steel City, the Panthers were primed for a 12-0 run to the national title and boasted the nation's best player—running back Tony Dorsett. No team came within a touchdown of Pitt, and after the season, Majors was gone to his alma mater, Tennessee, to rebuild its fortunes.

Year Four of Majors' second coming has a decidedly different feeling at Pittsburgh. The talk is not of national titles but of learning how to win. The Panthers have only a few of players who would be considered desirable at the nation's top programs, and Majors is in no danger of leaving for a more glamorous job. He has nowhere else to go.

"Of the four rebuilding jobs I've taken on [Pitt twice, Tennessee and Iowa State] only one went the way you draw it up," Majors said. "The rest had a few valleys and a few hills."

The Panthers are staring at football's version of Mount Everest these days. Their 2-9 record last year included a humbling loss to Temple, and there is little reason to believe Pitt is primed for any serious run at .500. It must find a new quarterback, locate some wide receivers and re-tool a defense that gave up 105 points in the final three weeks of last season.

"The record speaks for itself, but there is no question in my mind we were an improved football team last year," Majors said. "We were in every ballgame except two in the fourth quarter, and that's vast progress over the first two years."

OFFENSE: Tailback Billy West should be completely rehabilitated from a pair of injuries (chest ligament sprain, broken leg) that limited his 1995 contributions to a pair of contests after a 1,358-yard performance in 1994. He gives the Panthers a much-needed workhorse. And if West struggles, Demetrius Harris (610 yards) is capable of han-

dling chores as the main ball carrier. Harris also will see time as a wide receiver.

They'll be running behind a solid line that returns four starters, including juniors Reggie Thomas and Tony Orlandini, the latter of whom missed spring drills while recovering from a knee injury.

The question at Pitt comes with the passing game. The Panthers lost their starting quarterback (John Ryan) and top two receivers (Dietrich Jells and Sadiq Durham). Both Pete Gonzalez and Matt Lytle could see time under center this season.

DEFENSE: Though starting cornerback Anthony Dorsett graduated, the secondary should be the strength of the defense. Junior Denorse Mosley (six interceptions in 1994) returns from a thumb injury to team with sophomore Rasshad Whitmill at the corners, while juniors John Jenkins (52 tackles) and Curtis McGhee are solid at the safety spots.

The rest of the defense is a grab bag. Seniors Mike Mohring and Jared Miller anchor the front line. Jason Chavis, a senior who led the team in tackling in 1994, provides stability at inside linebacker. Junior Rod Humphrey and sophomore Phil Clarke are the early leaders on the outside.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Punter Nate Cochran averaged 42.9 yards per kick—14th in the nation—but had three punts blocked. Sophomore Chris Ferencik returns after making 12 of 13 field-goal attempts last year—good for a spot among the Lou Groza Award finalists—but he attempted only two beyond 40 yards.

RECRUITING: The Panthers had the best recruiting class in Majors' second tenure. Running backs Chiffon Allen and Aamir Dew were among the top recruits in New Jersey, while linemen Ben Kopp and Demond Gibson could be future stars. Linebacker Nathan Kirby was the best defensive player in West Virginia, and quarterback Tony Zimmerman threw for nearly 2,500 yards last year for Pennsylvania's big-school state champion.

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Matt Lytle (So., 6-4, 215)	Pete Gonzalez (Jr., 6-1, 205)
RB: Billy West (Jr., 5-10, 205)*	Demetrius Harris (So., 5-10, 180)
RB: Chris Schneider (So., 6-1, 240)*	Karim Thompson (Fr., 5-11, 196)
WR: Mark Butler (Sr., 5-10, 165)	Jake Hoffart (Jr., 6-1, 198)
WR: Curtis Anderson (Sr., 6-1, 190)*	Vital Joseph (Jr., 6-3, 205)
TE: John Jones (So., 6-4, 240)	Kirk McMullen (Fr., 6-4, 252)
LT: Tony Orlandini (Jr., 6-5, 280)*	Ethan Weidle (Fr., 6-6, 285)
LG: Jon Marzoch (Jr., 6-3, 270)*	Jason Sepkowski (Jr., 6-2, 275)
C: Reggie Thomas (Jr., 6-5, 265)*	Andrew Grischow (So., 6-3, 265)
RG: Jeff Craig (Sr., 6-5, 285)*	Tim Robbins (Sr., 6-5, 265)
RT: Mike Schultz (So., 6-4, 288)	Justin Wade (Fr., 6-4, 295)

DEFENSE

DE: Jared Miller (Sr., 6-3, 245)	Chris Dilba (Fr., 6-3, 258)
DT: Mike Mohring (Sr., 6-5, 270)*	Kenny Pegram (So., 6-2, 275)
DT: Frank Moore (Jr., 6-3, 275)	Demond Gibson (Fr., 6-4, 300)
DE: Marlin Young (So., 6-2, 245)	Maurice Harris (Sr., 6-4, 255)
LB: Rod Humphrey (Jr., 6-1, 225)	Ken Kashubara (So., 6-4, 225)
LB: Jason Chavis (Sr., 6-2, 245)	Julian Graham (Fr., 6-3, 240)
LB: Phil Clarke (So., 6-0, 225)	Ken Konek (Jr., 5-9, 195)
CB: Denorse Mosley (Jr., 6-1, 180)*	Chuck Brown (So., 5-11, 175)*
CB: Rasshad Whitmill (So., 5-11, 191)	Sean Stallings (Fr., 5-10, 176)
SS: Curtis McGhee (Jr., 5-10, 180)	E.C. Varoutsos (So., 6-1, 185)
FS: John Jenkins (Jr., 6-2, 185)*	Eric Kasperowicz (Jr., 6-0, 205)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Chris Ferencik (So., 5-10, 170)*	Chris Burnett (Jr., 5-8, 160)
P: Nate Cochran (Sr., 6-5, 210)*	Grant Coffield (Fr., 6-2, 197)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Johnny Majors, 8th year, 41-38-1; 181-130-10 overall

'95 RECORD: 2-9 (0-7 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Pitt Stadium, Pittsburgh, Pa. (56,500, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 13 (7 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Tom Tumulty, LB (1st-team All-Big East); Dietrich Jells, WR (2nd-team All-Big East); Mike Halapin, DL (2nd-team All-Big East)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Pete Gonzalez, Jr., 30-76-478 yards, 3 TDs, 5 INTs

RUSHING: Demetrius Harris, Soph., 137 carries, 610 yards, 5 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Curtis Anderson, Sr., 25

RECEIVING (YARDS): Mark Butler, Sr., 290

TACKLES: John Jenkins, Jr., 52

SACKS: Jared Miller, Sr., 2

INTERCEPTIONS: Jenkins, 4

PUNTING: Nate Cochran, Sr., 42.9 avg.

KICKING: Chris Ferencik, Soph., 12-13 FGs (long 41), 23-24 PATs

SCORING: Ferencik, 59 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 . . . WEST VIRGINIA

Sept. 7 . . . KENT

Sept. 14 . . . HOUSTON

Sept. 21 . . . at Ohio State

Sept. 28 . . . at Miami (Fla.)

Oct. 5 . . . TEMPLE (HC)

Oct. 12 . . . at Syracuse

Oct. 26 . . . at Virginia Tech

Oct. 31 . . . BOSTON COLLEGE

Nov. 16 . . . at Notre Dame

Nov. 30 . . . RUTGERS

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . . WASHINGTON STATE; W, 17-13

Sept. 9 . . . EASTERN MICHIGAN; W, 66-30

Sept. 16 . . . at Texas; L, 38-27

Sept. 23 . . . OHIO STATE; L, 54-14

Sept. 30 . . . VIRGINIA TECH; L, 26-16

Oct. 7 . . . at Boston College; L, 17-0

Oct. 14 . . . at Temple; L, 29-27

Oct. 21 . . . MIAMI (FLA.); L, 17-16

Oct. 28 . . . at Rutgers; L, 42-24

Nov. 11 . . . SYRACUSE; L, 42-10

Nov. 24 . . . at West Virginia; L, 21-0

MILESTONES

■ Billy West needs 1,457 yards to move into second place among Pitt's career rushing leaders, behind Tony Dorsett.

■ Johnny Majors needs four victories to move past Darrell Royal and into 22nd place on the all-time NCAA coaching wins list.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a reliable starting quarterback and cultivate some potent targets.
- Rebuild the defensive front seven.
- Eliminate late-game errors.

FACTS

COACH: Terry Shea, 1st year; 15-6-2 overall
'95 RECORD: 4-7 (2-5 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Rutgers Stadium, Piscataway, N.J. (42,000, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 11 (3 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Marco Battaglia, TE (1st-team All America); Terrell Willis, RB (1st-team All-Big East, left early for NFL Draft); Robert Barr, OL (1st-team All-Big East); Chris Kennedy, OL (2nd-team All-Big East); Ray Lucas, QB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: None
RUSHING: Chad Bosch, Sr., 71 carries, 356 yards, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Steve Harper, Jr., 35
RECEIVING (YARDS): Harper, 417
TACKLES: Brian Sheridan, Sr., 132
SACKS: Charles Woolridge, Jr., 3
INTERCEPTIONS: Kevin Williams, Jr., 3
PUNTING: Jared Slovan, Jr., 36.5 avg.
KICKING: Nick Mike-Mayer, Jr., 8-15 FGs (long 47), 33-36 PATs
SCORING: Mike-Mayer, 57 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ... VILLANOVA
 Sept. 7 ... NAVY
 Sept. 12 ... MIAMI (FLA.)
 Sept. 21 ... at Virginia Tech
 Oct. 5 ... at Syracuse
 Oct. 12 ... ARMY
 Oct. 19 ... at Boston College
 Oct. 26 ... TEMPLE (HC)
 Nov. 9 ... WEST VIRGINIA
 Nov. 23 ... at Notre Dame
 Nov. 30 ... at Pittsburgh

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 9 ... at Duke; L, 24-14
 Sept. 16 ... NAVY; W, 27-17
 Sept. 23 ... vs. Penn State; L, 59-34*
 Sept. 30 ... SYRACUSE; L, 27-17
 Oct. 14 ... at Miami (Fla.); L, 56-21
 Oct. 21 ... VIRGINIA TECH; L, 45-17
 Oct. 28 ... PITTSBURGH; W, 42-24
 Nov. 4 ... at West Virginia; L, 59-26
 Nov. 11 ... at Tulane; W, 45-40
 Nov. 18 ... at Temple; W, 23-20
 Nov. 24 ... BOSTON COLLEGE; L, 41-38
 * at Giants Stadium, E. Rutherford, N.J.

MILESTONE

■ With 112 career receptions, WR Reggie Funderburk needs 60 catches to surpass graduated tight end Marco Battaglia as Rutgers' all-time leader.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- JUCO influx must make immediate impact, especially along the offensive and defensive lines.
- Quarterback dilemma must get solved early.
- RB Chad Bosch must carry the offense until Shea's West Coast scheme takes hold.

By BILL HOWARD

Across Rutgers' campuses, they're asking fans to please keep whatever patience it has left from the Doug Graber era. Members of the perennially underachieving program claim it has begun its road to recovery.

When Graber was fired as head coach last November, the Scarlet Knights brought in Terry Shea, his two Big West titles in two years and his devotion to the West Coast Offense that stems from a longtime relationship with San Francisco 49ers coach Bill Walsh.

"I've told the players coming back to forget what's happened in the past," Shea said. "We're going to find a way to win. Our key is for us to go into each game really knowing what we're looking for. Look at the [49ers]. They're continually champions because they stick to continuity."

If only Joe Montana and Jerry Rice had sons eligible for college ball.

OFFENSE: Shea inherits a team missing most of its key starters from last season. Of the offensive standouts, only senior wide receiver Reggie Funderburk and Steve Harper return, although Funderburk is questionable after undergoing surgery for a torn ACL in mid-February. To ease the shock the offense may feel this season, Shea brought in a pair of California junior-college transfers for the offensive line—6-foot-3, 290-pound Clint Hunt of San Diego Mesa and 6-3, 265-pound Bryan Yeager.

Late-season surprise Chad Bosch steers the running game and will eventually get help from redshirt freshman Gary Fauntleroy, one of Graber's last prize recruits. The pair has a daunting task trying to make fans forget about the departure of "Thunder and Lightning"—graduated fullback Bruce Presley and early-NFL Draft entry Terrell Willis, respectively.

Shea refused to name a starting quarterback after spring practice, but don't be surprised to see either of his recruits, 6-4, 210-pound Mike Jones or 6-2, 180-pound Perris Verduzco, thrown into the fire. Shea loves Verduzco's quick release and, under his new



CHAD BOSCH-RB

system, predicts one of those two quarterbacks will "lead the nation in passing efficiency" before they graduate. Until they arrive, junior Ralph Sacca has the edge over redshirt freshman Corey Valentine.

Replacing consensus first-team All America tight end Marco Battaglia was another major task for Shea, who signed 6-3, 240-pound American River (Calif.) JC transfer Marcus Luna, a blood-and-guts player like his predecessor.

DEFENSE: Shea introduced a 4-4 set this spring and hopes seven returning starters, including senior tackle Rashod Swinger and senior line-backer Brian Sheridan (132 tackles), can ease the transition. The unit was dealt a huge blow when senior end Rusty Swartz suffered a season-ending knee injury in the spring game.

Unlike the linebacker position, Rutgers has some depth at corner, relying on third-year starter Derek Ward (28 tackles, 1 INT) to lead the way.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Although junior punter Jared Slovan's average is just 36.5 yards, 24 of his 55 kicks were downed inside the opponent's red zone. Junior kicker Nick Mike-Mayer Jr. hit 8 of 15 field-goal attempts last year and was fairly consistent over 40 yards. With Funderburk a question mark and Willis gone, Bosch is likely to handle return duties.

RECRUITING: Getting a late start didn't help Shea, especially in-state, where talent was exceptional. But he still managed to get some solid, immediate-impact recruits at key positions, especially at quarterback and wide receiver. Shea's love for long-legged receivers resulted in 6-3, 195-pound Andy Holland, who had 53 catches for 1,030 yards last season for Foothill (Calif.) JC.

Defensively, the Knights received some immediate help when 6-2, 230-pound linebacker Art Dreher transferred from Georgia Tech. From the high school ranks, Shea also signed 6-1, 200-pound speedster Shin Black (Etiwanda, Calif.), who can play quarterback but will likely apply his strong tackling ability as a defensive back.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE			
QB: Ralph Sacca (Jr., 6-4, 220)	Corey Valentine (Fr., 6-1, 185)		
RB: Chad Bosch (Sr., 5-9, 160)	Damon Hamlin (Jr., 5-8, 190)		
RB: Joe Diggs (Jr., 6-0, 190)	Melvin Cobbs (Fr., 5-10, 190)		
WR: R. Funderburk (Sr., 5-11, 175)*	Chris Hutton (Jr., 6-5, 200)		
WR: Steve Harper (Jr., 5-10, 165)*	Bill Powell (Sr., 6-3, 190)		
TE: Marcus Luna (Jr., 6-3, 240)*	Jason Curry (Sr., 6-4, 250)		
LT: Kerry Ware (Jr., 6-4, 290)	D. Cinquegranna (Sr., 6-6, 275)		
LG: Pete Donnelly (So., 6-2, 300)	Rameses Rodriguez (Fr., 6-4, 285)		
C: Jack McKiernan (Jr., 6-2, 275)*	Matt Fleming (Sr., 6-1, 280)		
RG: Bryan Rafferty (So., 6-3, 300)	Chris Howe (Fr., 6-4, 280)		
RT: T.J. Spizzo (Sr., 6-4, 290)	Ben French (Fr., 6-4, 300)		
DEFENSE			
DE: A. George-Shields (Fr., 6-3, 235)	Joey Jones (Jr., 6-3, 215)		
DT: Rashod Swinger (Sr., 6-3, 290)*	Mike Bell (So., 6-2, 230)		
DT: Shawn Devlin (Jr., 6-1, 260)	Charles Woolridge (Jr., 6-3, 245)*		
DE: Chris Cebula (Sr., 6-3, 220)	Ronald Todman (Fr., 6-4, 235)		
LB: Norris Crawford (Jr., 5-10, 185)	Roger Wingate (Fr., 6-1, 180)		
LB: Art Dreher (So., 6-2, 220)	Aaron Brady (So., 5-11, 200)		
LB: Brian Sheridan (Sr., 6-0, 215)*	Dax Strohmeyer (Fr., 6-3, 210)		
LB: Gil Ross (So., 6-0, 185)	Taman Bryant (Fr., 6-1, 205)		
CB: C. Chadwick (Sr., 5-11, 190)*	Mike Sandy (Jr., 5-9, 180)*		
CB: Derek Ward (Sr., 6-0, 170)*	Peter Clarke (So., 5-9, 170)		
FS: Thomas Kelly (Jr., 6-0, 190)*	Charles Wiley (So., 6-1, 180)		
SPECIAL TEAMS			
K: N. Mike-Mayer (Jr., 6-1, 200)*	Lee McDonald (Fr., 6-0, 195)		
P: Jared Slovan (Jr., 6-4, 200)*	Mike Buchanan (Fr., 5-11, 175)		

(* denotes returning starter)



DONOVAN McNABB-QB

By DAVE ALLEN

Syracuse coach Paul Pasqualoni knows all about high expectations. In 1993, his Orangemen were coming off back-to-back 10-win seasons, including New Year's Day bowl victories over Ohio State and Colorado. Quarterback Marvin Graves, who engineered those wins and was MVP of Syracuse's previous three bowl games, was back as, as were a host of other talented skill people. The Orangemen were supposed to challenge for a national title.

Instead, the Orange got squeezed out of the bowl picture entirely, finishing a disappointing 6-4-1.

In 1996, the expectations are once again big enough to inflate the Carrier Dome. After humiliating Clemson, 41-0, in the Gator Bowl last January 1, one major publication went so far as to say the Orange would challenge for a national title.

National title? Pasqualoni would gladly settle for Syracuse's first Big East title.

"What I learned in 1993 is that you just don't take it for granted," Pasqualoni said. "It just doesn't happen. You've got to make it happen."

"This is a much younger team [than the '93 squad]. This team has got to be able to replace the leadership the seniors last year gave us. They were extremely determined. As determined a group of seniors that I have been around in regards to putting this program back into a bowl game."

OFFENSE: For the Orangemen to win the Big East, they'll need another sensational season from sophomore quarterback Donovan McNabb. McNabb, who reminds some of former West Virginia quarterback Major Harris because of his size, strength and elusiveness, set a new NCAA record for passing efficiency by a freshman last season.

But McNabb will be without his favorite target, Marvin Harrison, who'll be catching passes in another dome (the RCA Dome in Indianapolis) this season. Deon Maddox and Jim Turner, who combined for 20 receptions last season, are the likely

starters at wide receiver, but they'll be pushed for playing time by converted quarterback Kevin Johnson, sophomore Darryl Daniel and incoming *Parade* All-American Ian McIntosh and Quinton Spotwood.

The returning backfield, led by senior Malcolm Thomas, Ian's older brother Kyle and punishing sophomore fullback Rob Konrad, should make it three Big East rushing titles in a row for the Orangemen. Konrad, who rushed for 281 yards and scored six touchdowns in Syracuse's final three regular-season games, is a load at 242 pounds and is the latest to wear the school's storied No. 44.

DEFENSE: Which unit will show up this season? The one which blanketed West Virginia and held Clemson to 159 total yards, or the one which allowed East Carolina and Miami (Fla.) to combine for almost 1,000 yards against it?

It should be closer to the former. For one, the Orange welcome back inside linebacker Antwaune Ponds, who had 111 tackles before suffering a season-ending knee injury in the third-to-last regular-season game against Pittsburgh.

The defensive line should be vastly improved after spending a full off-season under former Miami (Fla.) assistant Ed Ogeron. The Orangemen don't have any Cortez Kennedys or Russell Marylands in the group, but 6-foot-7, 307-pound Antonio Anderson and junior Dulayne Morgan could be on the verge of stardom.

The secondary, led by All-America cornerback Kevin Abrams and All-Big East free safety Donovan Darius, is the Orange's best in a decade.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Punter Sean Reali, whose 43.1-yard average ranked 11th nationally a year ago, has the strongest leg in the Big East. Floridian Nathan Trout, who hit two 29-yard field goals in the spring game, is the likely successor to Olindo Mare at place-kicker.

RECRUITING: McIntosh and Spotwood were the exception. Of Syracuse's 24 signees, 13 were either linebackers or defensive linemen, the best of the bunch being 6-3, 280-pound Vaughn Smith of Clinton, Md.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Donovan McNabb (So., 6-1, 208)*	Keith Downing (Jr., 6-2, 198)
RB: Malcolm Thomas (Sr., 5-8, 196)*	Kyle McIntosh (So., 5-8, 180)
RB: Rob Konrad (So., 6-3, 242)*	Terry Morris (Sr., 5-10, 218)
WR: Jim Turner (Jr., 6-4, 205)	Darryl Daniel (So., 5-11, 185)
WR: Deon Maddox (Sr., 5-10, 177)	Kevin Johnson (So., 5-10, 188)
TE: Roland Williams (Jr., 6-4, 262)*	Kaseem Sinceno (Jr., 6-4, 246)
LT: Brad Patkovich (Jr., 6-4, 287)	John Wellington (Fr., 6-6, 275)
LG: John Michaelidis (Sr., 6-4, 294)	Scott Kiernan (So., 6-2, 316)
C: H. Pennypacker (Sr., 6-3, 286)*	Cory Bowen (Fr., 6-4, 285)
RG: Shelton Prescott (Sr., 6-4, 292)*	Chuck Beatie (Jr., 6-5, 309)
RT: Brent Warren (Jr., 6-5, 299)*	Jeff Pilon (Fr., 6-6, 262)

DEFENSE

DE: Jason Walters (Jr., 6-3, 260)*	George Meyers (Sr., 6-3, 269)
DT: Jeff Danish (Jr., 6-5, 286)	Scott Freaney (Sr., 6-2, 262)
DT: Antonio Anderson (Sr., 6-7, 307)*	Donald Dinkins (Fr., 6-4, 275)
DE: Dulayne Morgan (Jr., 6-3, 250)	Darrell Stroope (Fr., 6-4, 230)
LB: Dana Cottrell (Sr., 6-3, 235)*	Mike Brown (Sr., 6-2, 202)
LB: Antwaune Ponds (Jr., 6-1, 232)*	Matt Klaus (Fr., 6-3, 230)
LB: Nate Hemsley (Sr., 6-0, 208)*	Stan Gibbs (So., 5-11, 206)
CB: Kevin Abrams (Sr., 5-8, 158)*	S. Summerville (So., 6-0, 193)
CB: Rod Gadson (Jr., 5-7, 175)*	Phil Nash (So., 5-11, 190)
SS: Anthony Walker (Sr., 6-0, 204)	Keith Bulluck (Fr., 6-3, 205)
FS: Donovan Darius (Jr., 6-1, 204)*	Larry Tyger (Jr., 6-0, 196)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Nathan Trout (So., 5-8, 180)	Sean Reali (Sr., 5-10, 192)
P: Sean Reali (Sr., 5-10, 192)*	Nathan Trout (So., 5-8, 180)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Paul Pasqualoni, 5th year, 42-15-1

'95 RECORD: 9-3 (5-2 conf.)

FINAL RANKINGS: No. 19 AP, No. 16 USA

Today/CNN

HOME STADIUM: Carrier Dome, Syracuse, N.Y. (50,000, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (7 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Marvin Harrison, WR (1st-team All-Big East); Cy Ellsworth, OL (2nd-team All-Big East); Olindo Mare, K (2nd-team All-Big East)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Donovan McNabb, Soph., 128-207-1,991 yards, 16 TDs, 6 INTs

RUSHING: Malcolm Thomas, Sr., 124 carries, 603 yards, 8 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Thomas, 19, 1 TD

RECEIVING (YARDS): Deon Maddox, Sr., 189

TACKLES: Donovan Darius, Jr., 131

SACKS: Nate Hemsley and Antonio Anderson, Srs., 3.5 each

INTERCEPTIONS: Kevin Abrams, Sr., 6

PUNTING: Sean Reali, Sr., 43.1 avg.

KICKING: Reali, 0-1 FGs

SCORING: Thomas, 54 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 . . . NORTH CAROLINA

Sept. 21 . . . at Minnesota

Sept. 28 . . . VIRGINIA TECH

Oct. 5 . . . RUTGERS

Oct. 12 . . . PITTSBURGH

Oct. 26 . . . at Boston College

Nov. 2 . . . at West Virginia

Nov. 9 . . . at Tulane

Nov. 16 . . . ARMY

Nov. 23 . . . at Temple

Nov. 30 . . . MIAMI (FLA.)

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . . at North Carolina; W, 20-9

Sept. 9 . . . EAST CAROLINA; L, 27-24

Sept. 23 . . . MINNESOTA; W, 27-17

Sept. 30 . . . at Rutgers; W, 27-17

Oct. 7 . . . TEMPLE; W, 31-14

Oct. 14 . . . E. MICHIGAN; W, 52-24

Oct. 21 . . . W. VIRGINIA; W, 22-0

Nov. 4 . . . at Virginia Tech; L, 31-7

Nov. 11 . . . at Pittsburgh; W, 42-10

Nov. 18 . . . BOSTON COLLEGE; W, 58-29

Nov. 25 . . . at Miami (Fla.); L, 35-24

Jan. 1 . . . vs. Clemson in Gator Bowl; W, 41-0

MILESTONE

■ The last time four times Syracuse has played in a bowl game, a Syracuse quarterback wearing No. 5 has taken MVP honors—Marvin Graves in 1991, '92 and '93 and Donovan McNabb last season.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

■ Find a replacement for speedy wideout/return man Marvin Harrison.

■ Keep All-America cornerback Kevin Abrams healthy. Abrams missed last year's Miami (Fla.) game and the Orange paid dearly with three pass-interference calls.

■ A full season from linebackers Antwaune Ponds and Nate Hemsley.



TEMPLE

FACTS

COACH: Ron Dickerson, 4th year, 4-29 '95 RECORD: 1-10 (1-6 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia, Pa. (66,592, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (8 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: John Summerday, OL (1st-team All-Big East); Lance Johnstone, LB (1st-team All-Big East); Willie Brown, LB (2nd-team All-Big East)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Henry Burris, Sr., 139-300-2,004 yards, 11 TDs, 17 INTs
RUSHING: Eugene Culbreath, Sr., 103 carries, 451 yards, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Van Johnson (2 TDs), Troy Kersey (4), and Kevin Walker (2), Jrs., 20 each
RECEIVING (YARDS): Kersey, 469
TACKLES: Alshermond Singleton, Sr., 151
SACKS: Tealang Lloyd and Tim Terry, Srs., 4 each
INTERCEPTIONS: Lloyd and Marcus Counts, Soph., 1 each
PUNTING: None
KICKING: Zane Michalski, Jr., 6-9 FGs (long 44), 19-19 PATs
SCORING: Michalski, 37 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...at Eastern Michigan
 Sept. 7 ...WASHINGTON STATE
 Sept. 14 ...at Bowling Green
 Sept. 21 ...vs. PENN STATE*
 Oct. 5 ...at Pittsburgh
 Oct. 12 ...at Virginia Tech
 Oct. 19 ...WEST VIRGINIA (HC)
 Oct. 26 ...at Rutgers
 Nov. 2 ...MIAMI (FLA.)
 Nov. 16 ...at Boston College
 Nov. 23 ...SYRACUSE
 *at Giants Stadium, E. Rutherford, N.J.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...at Kansas State; L, 34-7
 Sept. 9 ...at West Virginia; L, 24-13
 Sept. 16 ...at Penn State; L, 66-14
 Sept. 30 ...BOWLING GREEN; L, 37-31
 Oct. 7 ...at Syracuse; L, 31-14
 Oct. 14 ...PITTSBURGH; W, 29-27
 Oct. 21 ...at East Carolina; L, 32-22
 Oct. 28 ...at Miami (Fla.); L, 36-21
 Nov. 4 ...BOSTON COLLEGE; L, 10-9
 Nov. 11 ...VIRGINIA TECH; L, 38-16
 Nov. 18 ...RUTGERS; L, 23-20

MILESTONE

■ Temple's 29-27 victory over Pitt last season was its first Big East Conference win.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Keeping Henry Burris healthy.
- More production from running game that averaged a paltry 106 yards per game.
- Defense must improve dramatically.

By RANDY KING

Entering his fourth season with a program that nobody seems to give a hoot about and that reportedly loses millions of dollars each fall, Temple coach Ron Dickerson claims he can finally see light at the end of the tunnel.

"And, contrary to some people's beliefs, it's not the headlight of a locomotive," Dickerson quipped.

Why is a man whose team went 1-10 in 1995 and has gone 4-29 the past three seasons so optimistic? Well, things seem to have turned up a bit on Broad Street. Temple's program is certainly no bully yet, but it's no longer Shirley Temple, either.

While Temple won only one contest—a 29-27 victory over Pitt that broke an 0-for-forever collar in the Big East—the Owls did throw serious scares at West Virginia, Bowling Green, East Carolina, Boston College and Rutgers. Dickerson, who won a national title as an assistant under Joe Paterno at Penn State, said the Pitt win was nearly as big as winning the whole enchilada.

"You'd have thought we won the national championship here," he said. "It was total chaos. We had champagne. I don't drink, but I chugged some that day."

OFFENSE: Most of the flying done by the Owls will be via the right arm of senior quarterback Henry Burris. Although he was slowed most of last season by nagging injuries—25 sacks and repeated hurries will do that to a quarterback—the shifty Burris still threw for 2,004 yards and 11 touchdowns, but was picked off 17 times. Burris, who underwent off-season knee surgery, will have some familiar targets as three of the Owls' top four receivers are back, led by Van Johnson (20 catches, 322 yards).

The bad news for Burris and Co. is the sorry state of offensive line and running game. Sure, leading rusher Eugene Culbreath returns for his senior year, but he only rushed for 451 yards.

DEFENSE: Yielding 358 points in 11 games is not good. But when you have permitted 517 and 417 like Temple did in 1993 and 1994, it's actually



HENRY BURRIS-QB

called progress. Brute strength up front has always been one of Temple's most noticeable shortcomings. But Dickerson sees 6-foot-2, 344-pound Larry Chester, a JUCO transfer, as part of the cure.

Joining Chester in what should be an improved defensive line are three key returnees: end Tim Terry (72 tackles, four sacks), tackle Tealang Lloyd (64 tackles, four sacks) and end Robert Kelly (39 tackles). Tackle Ben Mayer, a Florida State transfer, should make an impact.

The defensive front will have to be stronger, because the Owls' linebacking corps lost a 1995 first-team All-Big East performer in Lance Johnstone (team-high 153 tackles) and second-teamer Willie Brown (124). Linebacker Alshermond Singleton (151 tackles), an All-Big East candidate, returns and will be the ringleader on defense.

Dickerson desperately needs Excel Lucas, an All America last fall at Hutchinson (Kan.) Junior College, to live up to his first name to strengthen a porous secondary, which returns starters Ted McDuffie and Lamond Adams.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Reliable three-year punter John Shay (38.7 ypp.) is gone, so junior place-kicker Zane Michalski may be pressed into double duty.

RECRUITING: For the most part, Dickerson went the quick-fix route, as nearly half of his 23-player recruiting class came from the JUCO ranks.

But the Owls will have to wait for their most talented recruit. Kevin Harvey, a *USA Today* first-team All America utility player, was the leading scorer in New Jersey high school football history (656 points). The 5-10 quarterback, a Prop. 48 casualty, rushed for 4,028 yards and passed for 3,844 yards in his career at Paulsboro High. He chose the Owls after visiting Ohio State, and before going on scheduled visits to Oklahoma, Florida State and Nebraska.

Randy King covers Big East football for the Roanoke (Va.) Times.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Henry Burris (Sr., 6-1, 189)* Pat Bonner (Jr., 6-1, 179)
RB: Ramod Lee (So., 6-2, 230)* Eugene Culbreath (Sr., 6-0, 196)
RB: Frank Carter (Sr., 5-9, 196)* Juan Gaddy (Sr., 5-9, 189)
WR: Troy Kersey (Jr., 5-11, 187)* Kevin Walker (Jr., 5-9, 175)
WR: Van Johnson (Sr., 6-1, 188)* Kareem Gilliard (Jr., 5-11, 154)
TE: Justin Collins (Jr., 6-5, 245)* Casey Jones (Jr., 6-3, 236)
LT: Roger Chanoine (So., 6-5, 269)* Tim Leach (Jr., 6-7, 321)
LG: Ed Bowen (Sr., 6-2, 271)* Scott Oster (So., 6-3, 338)
C: Rick Smith (Jr., 6-3, 311)* Mike Tripp (So., 6-3, 253)
RG: Charlie Morris (Jr., 6-1, 260)* Rick Williams (So., 6-1, 288)
RT: Eric Johnson (Sr., 6-4, 278)* Drew Peterson (Sr., 6-7, 323)

DEFENSE

DE: Rob Kelly (So., 6-3, 254) Jason Davis (Sr., 6-4, 251)*
DT: Ben Mayer (Sr., 6-1, 220) Larry Chester (Jr., 6-2, 344)
DT: Tealang Lloyd (Sr., 6-2, 265)* Vince Pellis (Jr., 6-1, 268)
DE: Tim Terry (Sr., 6-3, 230)* Steve Simpkins (Jr., 6-5, 240)
LB: Keith Kerrin (Sr., 6-0, 224) Fenton Graham (So., 6-2, 245)
LB: A. Singleton (Sr., 6-3, 221)* Jason Blissett (Fr., 6-2, 240)
LB: Corey Green (Sr., 5-11, 216) Dean Jones (Sr., 5-9, 216)
CB: Lamond Adams (So., 5-9, 180)* Tom Indio (So., 5-8, 158)
CB: Excel Lucas (Jr., 5-11, 185) Deadrake Epps (Sr., 5-9, 180)*
SS: Kobie Barnett (So., 6-3, 184) Clint Nelson (Jr., 6-0, 194)
FS: Ted McDuffie (Sr., 6-0, 185)* Quincy Brannon (Fr., 6-3, 205)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Zane Michalski (Jr., 5-11, 201)* Dave Nicholl (Jr., 6-1, 180)
P: Josh Boise (Jr., 6-4, 180) Zane Michalski (Jr., 5-11, 201)
 (* denotes returning starter)

VIRGINIA TECH



KEN OXENDINE-RB

BILL HICKEY/ALLSPORT USA

By RANDY KING

Used to be, when it came to football, Blacksburg, Va., might as well have been known as Bleaksburg. Not anymore. Things are just Hokie Dokie these days for coach Frank Beamer and Virginia Tech's fast-rising football program.

After winning a total of 24 games in Beamer's first six seasons, the Hokies have moved into the fast lane the last three years, posting a 27-9 mark while earning three straight bowl invitations.

Tech's meteoric rise hit a zenith last fall. After opening the season with home losses to Boston College and Cincinnati, the Hokies finished the greatest season in school history by winning their final 10 games, the last a 28-10 conquest of Texas in the Sugar Bowl. The feather in their cap came when the *Associated Press* ranked them 10th in the final poll.

"After last year, people around the country know about Virginia Tech football now," Beamer said. "I think Virginia Tech has firmly put itself on the college football map."

Can the Hokies stay there?

"We have a chance at being a Top 25 club every year," Beamer said. "Our fans are smart enough to know it's not going to be like this every year, but there's no reason we can't consistently compete for the Big East title and be a top 15 club."

OFFENSE: Tech's biggest concerns come at receiver, where it lost its top big-play man, flanker Bryan Still, and No. 2 target, split end Jermaine Holmes. Fifth-year senior Jim Druckenmiller, a tough, Jim Kelly-like quarterback who was impressive (2,103 yards passing) in his first season as a starter, has new targets in senior Cornelius White (22 recs., 312 yards, 2 TDs) and seldom-used junior Shawn Scales.

In the backfield, Tech is set with a pair of explosive juniors. Ken Oxendine (5.6 yards per carry) and Marcus Parker (5.8) have a chance to rumble

behind a big, workmanlike offensive line that boasts a pair of All-Big East second-teamers—senior center Billy Conaty (6-foot-3, 306 pounds) and senior left tackle Jay Hagood (6-4, 307).

DEFENSE: This is where any discussion of Tech football should start. The Hokies' blue-collar "Lunch Pail Bunch" was among the nation's best in 1995, finishing No. 1 in rushing defense (77.4 yards per game), fifth in scoring defense (14.1 ppg) and 10th in total defense (285.9 ypg).

Although consensus All-America end Cornell Brown (see story, pg. 38) turned down NFL overtures and returns for his senior season, the Hokies will be hard-pressed to replace J.C. Price, Hank Coleman and Jim Baron up front. But with Brown, the Big East's 1995 Defensive Player of the Year, Tech can only hurt so much on defense.

"When Cornell is on, and that's most of the time," said Beamer, "he can carry a defense."

SPECIAL TEAMS: The Big East has quickly discovered that kicking the ball against the Hokies can be a blockbuster task. Tech blocked eight kicks in 1995, running its total to 48 in Beamer's 102-game tenure.

The Tech kicking job is up in the air between redshirt freshman Jimmy Kibble and freshman Shayne Graham, a first-team *Parade* All America from Pulaski County (Va.). High who routinely drills the uprights from 55 yards and closer.

Sophomore punter John I. Thomas needs to quicken his release to remain effective and improve on his 38.9 yards-per-punt average.

RECRUITING: As usual, Tech concentrated on speed and agility. Beamer signed 28 players, including eight of the state's blue-chippers. In an indicator of the impact of the Big East, Tech plucked six players each from Pennsylvania and Florida. Three junior-college transfers—WR Walter Ford, DB Tony Joe and DT William Flowers—might be counted on to contribute immediately.

Randy King covers the Hokies for the Roanoke (Va.) Times & World News.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Jim Druckenmiller (Sr., 6-5, 223)*	Al Clark (So., 6-1, 197)
RB: Ken Oxendine (Jr., 6-1, 221)	Marcus Parker (Jr., 5-10, 222)
RB: Brian Edmonds (Sr., 5-10, 235)*	Shelly Ellison (Fr., 6-1, 229)
WR: Cornelius White (Sr., 6-0, 195)	Michael Stuewe (Jr., 6-1, 181)
WR: Shawn Scales (Jr., 5-11, 192)	James Crawford (So., 6-2, 207)
TE: Bryan Jennings (Sr., 6-4, 252)*	Shaine Miles (Sr., 6-1, 234)
LT: Jay Hagood (Sr., 6-4, 307)*	Anthony Kapp (So., 6-4, 313)
LG: Todd Washington (Jr., 6-3, 324)	Dwight Vick (So., 6-4, 307)
C: Billy Conaty (Sr., 6-3, 306)*	Tim Wade (Sr., 6-3, 303)
RG: Gennaro DiNapoli (Jr., 6-3, 290)*	Todd Wheatley (So., 6-4, 304)
RT: T.J. Washington (Sr., 6-4, 338)	Derek Smith (So., 6-6, 286)

DEFENSE

DE: Cornell Brown (Sr., 6-2, 240)*	John Engleberger (Fr., 6-4, 240)
DT: Waverly Jackson (Sr., 6-3, 303)	William Flowers (Jr., 6-4, 255)
DT: Brad Baylor (Jr., 6-4, 262)	Kerwin Hairston (Jr., 6-2, 274)
DE: Danny Wheel (Jr., 6-2, 239)	Chris Cyrus (Fr., 6-2, 238)
LB: Brandon Semones (Sr., 6-0, 202)*	Tyron Edmond (So., 6-1, 190)
LB: Tony Morrison (Jr., 6-1, 227)	Steve Tate (Jr., 6-1, 230)
LB: Myron Newsome (Sr., 5-9, 216)*	Jason Berish (So., 6-3, 222)
CB: Antonio Banks (Sr., 5-10, 195)	Okesa Smith (Sr., 5-11, 174)
CB: Larry Green (Sr., 5-10, 170)*	Loren Johnson (So., 5-10, 179)*
SS: Korey Irby (Jr., 6-0, 190)	Pierson Prioleau (So., 5-10, 174)
FS: Torrian Gray (Sr., 6-0, 200)*	Cody Whipple (Jr., 6-2, 200)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Jim Kibble (Fr., 5-10, 177)	Shayne Graham (Fr., 5-11, 170)
P: John I. Thomas (So., 6-1, 197)*	Jim Kibble (Fr., 5-10, 177)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Frank Beamer, 10th year, 51-49-2

'95 RECORD: 10-2 (6-1 conf.)

FINAL RANKINGS: No. 10 AP, No. 9 USA

Today/CNN

HOME STADIUM: Lane Stadium, Blacksburg, Va. (51,000, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 13 (6 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: J.C. Price, DL (3rd-team All-America); Chris Malone, OL (1st-team All-Big East); George DelRicco, LB (1st-team All-Big East); William Yarborough, DB (1st-team All-Big East); Dwayne Thomas, RB (2nd-team All-Big East)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Jim Druckenmiller, Sr., 151-294-2, 103 yards, 14 TDs, 11 INTs

RUSHING: Ken Oxendine, Jr., 106 carries, 611 yards, 4 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Cornelius White, Sr., 22, 2 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): White, 312

TACKLES: Cornell Brown, Sr., 103

SACKS: Brown, 14

INTERCEPTIONS: Larry Green, Sr., 3

PUNTING: John I. Thomas, Soph., 38.9 avg.

KICKING: None

SCORING: Marcus Parker, Jr., 30 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	at Akron
Sept. 14	at Boston College
Sept. 21	RUTGERS
Sept. 28	at Syracuse
Oct. 12	TEMPLE (HC)
Oct. 26	PITTSBURGH
Nov. 2	SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA
Nov. 9	EAST CAROLINA
Nov. 16	at Miami (Fla.)
Nov. 23	WEST VIRGINIA
Nov. 29	VIRGINIA

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 7	BOSTON COLLEGE; L, 20-14
Sept. 16	CINCINNATI; L, 16-0
Sept. 23	MIAMI (FLA.); W, 13-7
Sept. 30	at Pittsburgh; W, 26-16
Oct. 7	at Navy; W, 14-0
Oct. 14	AKRON; W, 77-27
Oct. 21	at Rutgers; W, 45-17
Oct. 28	at West Virginia; W, 27-0
Nov. 4	SYRACUSE; W, 31-7
Nov. 11	vs. Temple; W, 38-16*
Nov. 18	at Virginia; W, 26-29
Dec. 31	vs. Texas in Sugar Bowl; W, 28-10

* at RFK Stadium, Washington, D.C.

MILESTONE

■ Tech's 10-game winning streak is the longest in school history and currently ranks second in the nation behind Nebraska (25 games).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Replace three-fourths of a defensive line that was one of the country's best in 1995.
- Find somebody for QB Jim Druckenmiller to throw to.
- Stay healthy, as they did in '95.



WEST VIRGINIA

BIG EAST

FACTS

COACH: Don Nehlen, 17th year, 115-68-4
'95 RECORD: 5-6 (4-3 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Mountaineer Field, Morgantown, W. Va. (63,500, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 17 (6 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Aaron Beasley, DB (2nd-team All America); Lovett Purnell, TE (2nd-team All-Big East); J.T. Thomas, LB (2nd-team All-Big East)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Chad Johnston, Sr., 127-248-2,019 yards, 13 TDs, 13 INTs
RUSHING: Leroy White, Jr., 42 carries, 260 yards, 1 TD
RECEIVING (CATCHES): David Saunders, Soph., 38, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Saunders, 682
TACKLES: Bernard Russ, Sr., 78
SACKS: Canute Curtis, Sr., 10
INTERCEPTIONS: Vann Washington, Sr., 3
PUNTING: Brian West, Sr., 35.3 avg.
KICKING: Bryan Baumann, Jr., 10-16 FGs (long 43), 29-30 PATs
SCORING: Baumann, 59 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...at Pittsburgh
 Sept. 7 ...WESTERN MICHIGAN
 Sept. 14 ...EAST CAROLINA
 Sept. 21 ...at Purdue
 Sept. 26 ...MARYLAND
 Oct. 5 ...BOSTON COLLEGE (HC)
 Oct. 19 ...at Temple
 Oct. 26 ...MIAMI (FLA.)
 Nov. 2 ...SYRACUSE
 Nov. 9 ...at Rutgers
 Nov. 23 ...at Virginia Tech

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...PURDUE; L, 26-24
 Sept. 9 ...TEMPLE; W, 24-13
 Sept. 16 ...at Maryland; L, 31-17
 Sept. 23 ...KENT; W, 45-6
 Sept. 30 ...at East Carolina; L, 23-20
 Oct. 14 ...at Boston College; W, 31-19
 Oct. 21 ...at Syracuse; L, 22-0
 Oct. 28 ...VIRGINIA TECH; L, 27-0
 Nov. 4 ...RUTGERS; W, 59-26
 Nov. 18 ...at Miami (Fla.); L, 17-12
 Nov. 24 ...PITTSBURGH; W, 21-0

MILESTONE

■ Wide receiver/kick returner Rahsaan Vanterpool needs 690 yards to break the school's career mark of 3,971 all-purpose yards.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a tailback successor to Robert Walker and Jimmy Gary and keep him healthy.
- Develop a cohesive offensive line that will give Chad Johnston time to use his great receivers.
- Improve the kicking game.

By MICHAEL BRADLEY

While many West Virginia fans wondered just how the 1994 Mountaineers were able to sneak into a bowl game, about the same number were perplexed at the maddening twists and turns the 1995 campaign took. Injuries, below-average performances and a dreadful kicking game consigned West Virginia to its first losing season since 1990 and only the third in coach Don Nehlen's 16-year tenure in Morgantown.

"I thought we would have a better football team than we did," Nehlen said. "We got some key kids hurt and we didn't have enough to overcome that."

It seems like the Mountaineers operate in five-year cycles. They were 9-3 in 1983 and 11-1 in both 1988 and 1993. In between was some moderate success, but the program always seems to require time to reload for a big year. If that theory holds true, Mountaineer faithful still have a few seasons to wait for another shot at a major bowl.

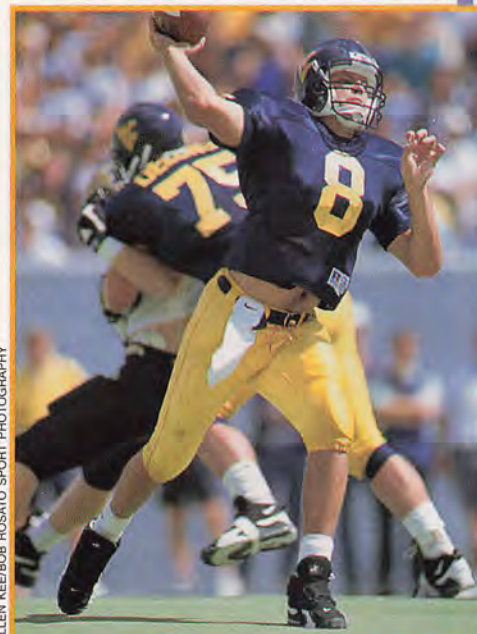
OFFENSE: The loss of Robert Walker (508 yards, four TDs) and Jimmy Gary (504 yards, six TDs) leaves West Virginia's backfield in a little trouble. Although there is some speed among the candidates for the starting job, Curtis Keaton and Alvin Swoope, there is little game experience.

There is little debate over the quarterback position. It's senior Chad Johnston's job—and that's that. Nehlen moved backup Eric Boykin (now a solid 235 pounds) to tight end. Johnston, who completed just over 51 percent of his passes, struggled at times last year.

"When he had a minute to throw the ball last year, he did pretty well," Nehlen said. "He has a big-league arm and a big-league mind."

And some big-league targets. Sophomore David Saunders surprised everybody by averaging 18 yards on 38 receptions last year and joins second-team All-Big East senior Rahsaan Vanterpool (34 recs., 606 yards) in a dynamite tandem.

The offensive line is wide open, with sopho-



CHAD JOHNSTON-QB

more Eric deGroh at center, and senior Bryan Washington lining up at tackle.

DEFENSE: Even though All-America cornerback Aaron Beasley has moved on, the secondary is the strength of West Virginia's defense. Senior Kerry Siverand joins three-year starters Mike Logan, Charles Emanuel and Vann Washington.

Senior Canute Curtis, who registered 10 sacks last year, is a budding star at rush linebacker. A solid 6-foot-2, 250 pounds, Curtis runs a 4.7 40-yard dash, bench presses more than 400 pounds and is much more than just a pass rusher.

"We'll have him standing up 65 percent of the time and in a three-point stance the other 35 percent," Nehlen said.

The rest of the experienced linebacking corps includes Bernard Russ (78 tackles), Elige Longino (47 tackles), Jamie Sweeney (39 tackles) and Jason Williams (33 tackles). The line is young but promising. Junior Henry Slay (four sacks) and sophomore John Thornton (three sacks) return at tackle.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Nehlen recruited JUCO star Jade Stillings to lift West Virginia from 105th in punting. The coach hopes kicker Bryan Baumann can improve on last season (10 of 16 field-goal attempts, including a missed game-winner), when he had only one kick longer than 40 yards. The return situation is solid, thanks to Vanterpool, who averaged 10.5 yards per punt return and 22.4 bringing back kicks.

RECRUITING: West Virginia had a pretty good haul, especially along the line, with offensive tackle Kirk Mills, center Rick Gilliam and defensive tackle Richard Allara. Mountaineer fans can also look forward to a future pitch-and-catch combination of quarterback John Borosky to wideout Carlos Osegueda.

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE			
QB: Chad Johnston (Sr., 6-3, 210)*	Wilkie Perez (So., 6-1, 205)		
RB: Curtis Keaton (So., 5-11, 190)	Alvin Swoope (Fr., 5-11, 195)		
RB: Leroy White (Jr., 6-1, 230)	Anthony Green (Fr., 6-2, 230)		
WR: R. Vanterpool (Sr., 5-11, 185)*	Shawn Foreman (So., 6-1, 205)		
WR: David Saunders (So., 6-2, 205)*	Jerald Long (So., 6-1, 180)		
TE: Chad Wable (Jr., 6-4, 245)	Eric Boykin (Sr., 6-3, 235)		
LT: Bryan Washington (Sr., 6-6, 310)*	Solomon Page (Fr., 6-6, 300)		
LG: Mike Horn (Sr., 6-5, 295)*	Randy Dunnigan (So., 6-3, 295)		
C: Eric deGroh (So., 6-4, 275)	Bill McElroy (Jr., 6-3, 290)*		
RG: Bryan Pukenas (So., 6-4, 270)	Steve Ford (So., 6-2, 285)		
RT: Sam Austin (Jr., 6-4, 285)	Frank Birts (Jr., 6-3, 290)		
DEFENSE			
DE: Bob Baum (Jr., 6-4, 250)	Kevin Landolt (So., 6-5, 275)*		
NT: John Thornton (So., 6-3, 285)*	Charlton Forbes (So., 6-0, 270)		
DT: Henry Slay (Jr., 6-2, 285)*	Ryan Price (Jr., 6-7, 270)		
LB: Canute Curtis (Sr., 6-2, 250)*	Steve Lippe (Jr., 6-2, 230)		
LB: Elige Longino (Sr., 6-2, 230)*	Jamie Sweeney (Jr., 6-1, 230)		
LB: Jason Williams (Jr., 5-11, 230)	Ryan Brady (Fr., 6-2, 245)		
LB: Bernard Russ (Sr., 6-1, 230)*	B. Amerson (Sr., 6-2, 225)		
CB: Mike Logan (Sr., 6-1, 200)*	Anton Anderson (Fr., 5-11, 180)		
CB: Kerry Siverand (Sr., 6-0, 185)	Perlo Bastien (Fr., 6-2, 190)		
SS: Charles Emanuel (Sr., 6-0, 195)*	Todd Dei (Sr., 5-11, 195)		
FS: Vann Washington (Sr., 6-0, 200)*	Gary Thompkins (Fr., 5-10, 190)		
SPECIAL TEAMS			
K: Bryan Baumann (Jr., 6-1, 195)*	Brad Hackett (Jr., 6-0, 195)		
P: Jade Stillings (Jr., 5-10, 170)	Brian West (Sr., 6-0, 195)*		

(* denotes returning starter)



Huskers Illustrated

Follow The Back-To-Back National Champions As They Pursue A Three-Peat Title.

17 issues for \$42.90

Huskers Illustrated P.O. Box 83222 Lincoln, NE 68501



Aggies Illustrated

Don't Miss Any Of The Action As Texas A&M Aims For A National Title.

17 issues for \$42.90

Aggies Illustrated P.O. Box 687 College Station, TX 77841



Hawgs Illustrated

We're Your #1 Source For Complete Razorback Sports Coverage.

19 issues for \$44.90

Hawgs Illustrated P.O. Box 1605 Fayetteville, AR 72702



Sooners Illustrated

Follow Coach Blake As He Rekindles The Glory of Sooner Football.

17 issues for \$42.90

Sooners Illustrated P.O. Box 837 Tulsa, OK 74101



HORNS ILLUSTRATED

Get An Up-close Look As The Horns Compete For A First Big 12 Title.

20 issues for \$37.95

Horns Illustrated P.O. Box 141759 Austin, TX 78714



voice of the Hawkeyes

Subscribe And Get The Most In-depth Iowa Coverage Available.

25 issues for \$42.90

Voice of the Hawkeyes P.O. Box 2176 Iowa City, IA 52244

WIN A FREE BOWL TRIP

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO ONE OF THESE FANTASTIC SPORTS PUBLICATIONS AND YOUR NAME WILL BE ENTERED IN A DRAWING FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AN ALL EXPENSE PAID TRIP FOR 2 TO THE BOWL GAME OF YOUR CHOICE.

**FOR CREDIT CARD ORDERS
CALL:**

1-800-715-2452

ASK FOR OPERATOR #431

OR MAIL ATTACHED COUPON TO
ADJACENT ADDRESSES

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

☐ Renewal ☐ New Subscription

☐ Payment Enclosed ☐ Bill Me

☐ MASTERCARD

☐ VISA

CREDIT CARD #: _____

EXP. DATE _____

PUBLICATION NAME:

☐ Huskers Illustrated

☐ Aggies Illustrated

☐ Hawgs Illustrated

☐ Sooners Illustrated

☐ Horns Illustrated

☐ Voice of the Hawkeyes

4431

BOWL GAMES LIMITED TO THOSE IN THE CONTINENTAL USA ONLY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED BY LAW. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. SEND POSTCARD ENTRIES TO: CSC BOWL DRAWING, 4099 MCEWEN, SUITE 350, DALLAS, TEXAS 75244

3 BIG TEN

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

ORLANDO PACE, OT, OHIO STATE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

PAT FITZGERALD, LB, NORTHWESTERN

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR:

TITCUS PETTIGREW, WR, PENN STATE

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. OHIO STATE
2. MICHIGAN
3. PENN STATE
4. NORTHWESTERN
5. IOWA
6. MICHIGAN STATE
7. ILLINOIS
8. WISCONSIN
9. PURDUE
10. INDIANA
11. MINNESOTA

'CATS LB READY TO OPERATE

In one quick snap, the doctor became the patient. As Northwestern rallied past Iowa in the second-to-last game of the regular season, All-America linebacker Pat Fitzgerald was wrapping up his 130th tackle of the season when his left leg crumpled under the weight of a fallen teammate. His game adrenaline was the closest thing to anesthesia as the team's doctors and trainers quickly concurred that Fitzgerald's Cinderella season was over, the casualty of a broken tibia and fibula.

With the team's travel agent awaiting the go-ahead for plane reservations to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena—confirmation would come two weeks later with Michigan's win over Ohio State—Wildcats head coach Gary Barnett suddenly had to deal with the nation's top-ranked scoring defense losing its best operator, its medicine man.



Northwestern linebacker Pat Fitzgerald averaged 13 tackles per game last season before breaking his left leg against Iowa.

"Pat is like a surgeon who spends a week trying to decide how he's going to make his incisions, how he's going to cut and how deep," Barnett said. "Then, when he gets on the field and he's planned it all out and seen it all before, everything just takes care of itself."

So it wasn't a real stretch when Fitzgerald had to refocus his attention from game film to X-rays, making sure everything was in place literally for him to enter fall practice in full swing.

He'll be the first to admit it's been a hard adjustment, considering the jolting success he had last season. But the 6-foot-2, 233-pound senior used his extra time wisely, developing a new, deeper outlook on the game.

"My mom and dad said I've never been a patient individual, but I've learned how to take things slow," he said half-jokingly. "As an athlete, you always want to do things right now, get it done and get out of there."

Fitzgerald's new perspective helped him deal with a hectic off-season schedule that filled his free time with a barrage of national awards banquets and other public appearances. But while he enjoys the accolades, he'd be the first to tell you the aroma of overpriced chicken cordon bleu meals pales to the sweet smells of Pasadena roses. For now, he's decided to just make the best of the situation.

"To play in the Rose Bowl would have ranked number one—over my awards—without a doubt. As a kid growing up in the Chicago area, you dreamed about playing in the Rose Bowl," he said. "And to not have that happen is just great motivation for next year."

"I've proven myself on the field, and now I have to re-prove myself because of the broken leg," he added. "I'm looking forward to it. Injuries happen, and true champions are the ones who come back from it. It's been frustrating, but at the same time, I keep it in the back of my head because, when September rolls around, I can vent that frustration."

That's bad news for season-opening foe Wake Forest, the first team to reluctantly learn that the doctor is definitely back in.

—Bill Howard

ALL-BIG TEN TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Player	Year	Ht./Wt.	College
QB	WALLY RICHARDSON	Sr.	6-4/215	PENN STATE
RB	DARNELL AUTRY	Jr.	5-11/209	NORTHWESTERN
RB	SEDRICK SHAW	Sr.	6-1/195	IOWA
WR	D'WAYNE BATES	Jr.	6-2/208	NORTHWESTERN
WR	RYAN THELWELL	Jr.	6-2/180	MINNESOTA
TE	KEITH OLSOMMER	Sr.	6-4/248	PENN STATE
OL	LESHUN DANIELS	Sr.	6-2/285	OHIO STATE
OL	ORLANDO PACE	Jr.	6-6/320	OHIO STATE
OL	EMMETT ZITELLI	Sr.	6-3/295	PURDUE
OL	FLOZELL ADAMS	Jr.	6-7/335	MICHIGAN STATE
OL	ROD PAYNE	Sr.	6-4/288	MICHIGAN

DEFENSE

Pos.	Player	Year	Ht./Wt.	College
DL	MIKE VRABEL	Sr.	6-4/255	OHIO STATE
DL	WILLIAM CARR	Sr.	6-0/285	MICHIGAN
DL	NATHAN DAVIS	Sr.	6-5/285	INDIANA
DL	TAREK SALEH	Sr.	6-3/236	WISCONSIN
LB	PAT FITZGERALD	Sr.	6-2/233	NORTHWESTERN
LB	JARRETT IRONS	Sr.	6-1/231	MICHIGAN
LB	PETE MONTY	Sr.	6-2/241	WISCONSIN
DB	SHAWN SPRINGS	Jr.	6-0/185	OHIO STATE
DB	BRIAN MILLER	Sr.	5-9/186	PENN STATE
DB	CLARENCE THOMPSON	Sr.	6-1/190	MICHIGAN
DB	HUDHAIFA ISMAELI	Sr.	5-11/202	NORTHWESTERN

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	Player	Year	Ht./Wt.	College
PK	BRETT CONWAY	Sr.	6-2/188	PENN STATE
P	NICK GALLERY	Sr.	6-4/239	IOWA
RS	DERRICK MASON	Sr.	5-11/190	MICHIGAN ST.

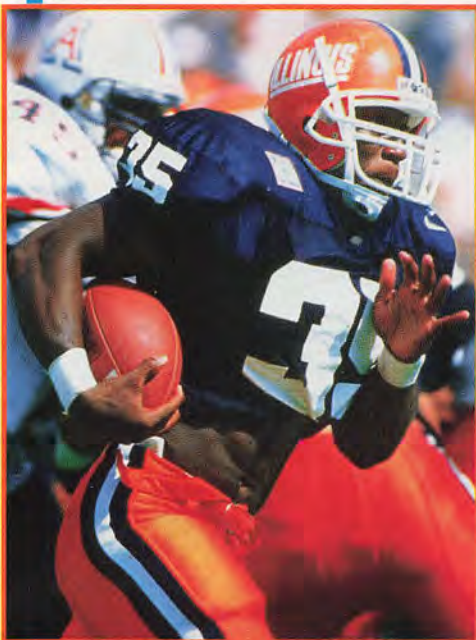
3 BIGGEST GAMES

1. OHIO STATE AT NOTRE DAME, SEPT. 28:
N.D. WILL HAVE ITS IRISH UP FOR THIS ONE AFTER GETTING LIT UP FOR 45 POINTS IN COLUMBUS LAST YEAR.

2. MICHIGAN AT NORTHWESTERN, OCT. 5:
WILL LAST YEAR'S CINDERELLA STORY HAVE A SEQUEL? THE WOLVERINES HAVE THE FIRST SHOT AT ENDING THE PURPLE REIGN.

3. MICHIGAN AT OHIO STATE, NOV. 23:
NO TRUTH TO THE RUMOR MICHIGAN IS BRINGING BACK TIM BIAKABUTUKA FOR THIS ONE.

ILLINOIS



ROBERT HOLCOMBE-RB

JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT USA

By BRENDAN HEALEY

The school that boasts Dick Butkus—as well as the last two Butkus Award winners—among its alumni could sure use the likes of Butkus now . . . on offense.

That's right, offense. Butkus is considered one of the great linebackers ever to play the game, but he also played center for Illinois. While the offensive line is experienced, it wasn't overly effective last year.

The defense lost two of the best players in the country in Simeon Rice and Kevin Hardy, but a sound system breeds a strong defense every year at Illinois. The offense, on the other hand, was in shambles and must improve if the fighting Illini are to play a role in the Big Ten race.

OFFENSE: Last season, Illinois' plans for an offensive resurgence under new offensive coordinator Paul Schudel fell apart along with the offensive line. At one point, the Illini started a true freshman and a true walk-on freshman on a front wall that had the staying power of a sand castle. Illinois surrendered 30 sacks and averaged a paltry 2.9 yards per rush.

The line remains a work in progress. Senior Chris Koerwitz (6-foot-2, 306 pounds) moves from center to guard, and junior Chris Brown (6-3, 290) goes from right guard to center.

If the line can solidify, the offense should be productive on the ground. For the first time in years, Illinois has a deep and talented cadre of halfbacks. Junior Robert Holcombe rushed for 1,051 yards last season, and leads a trio of north-south runners. Senior Ty Douthard, who has 1,696 career yards, will be moved from fullback to halfback.

After sharing quarterback duties with Johnny Johnson last season, senior Scott Weaver, who threw for 629 yards but coughed up 10 interceptions, is the starter. "I think Scott is going to blossom," coach Lou Tepper said, "There is a different air about him." Lanky senior Jason Dulick has 116 career catches, and Tepper calls him "one of the conference's best receivers."

DEFENSE: Sophomore Ryan Murphy and junior Cyron Brown will battle for Rice's rush linebacker spot, and redshirt freshman Manuel Strong is the top candidate for Hardy's drop linebacker job. Senior Dennis Stallings and junior David James, who had 130 and 78 tackles respectively, return at the inside linebackers.

Senior noseguard Paul Marshall (6-3, 260) leads a rebuilding defensive line, and Illinois must somehow replace Rice and Hardy's 23 sacks. "If we're going to be successful, we've got to be stronger up front," Tepper said. "We've got to be stronger against the run, but the question is will we have the pass rush." Junior cornerback Trevor Starghill (three INTs) is Illinois' most experienced defensive back.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Tepper always emphasizes special teams. Strong-legged junior kicker Bret Scheuplein can boot it out of the stadium, but he sometimes has trouble finding the uprights. He made 10 of 17 field-goal attempts last season. Illinois must replace punter Brett Larsen but does return its top three punt returners as well as its three most productive kick returners.

RECRUITING: Defensive lineman Eric Jefferson (6-4, 255) of Shreveport (La.) Evangel headlines a class of 21 that most observers rated in the top half of the Big Ten. Selected first-team All America by *USA Today*, Jefferson has been touted as the successor to Rice. Twelve signees are listed as defensive players, and Illinois is bringing in three quarterbacks. Other top recruits include offensive lineman Marques Sullivan (6-5, 310) of Oak Park (Ill.) Fenwick; quarterback Tim Lavery of Naperville (Ill.) Central; and linebacker Eric Garrett of Bolingbrook, Ill.

Brendan Healey is a free-lance writer based in New York City.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Scott Weaver (Sr., 6-2, 206)*	Mark Hoekstra (So., 6-3, 221)
RB: Robert Holcombe (Jr., 5-11, 209)*	Ty Douthard (Sr., 6-1, 215)
RB: Rodney Byrd (Sr., 6-3, 248)	Elmer Hickman (Fr., 6-1, 217)
WR: Marquis Mosely (Jr., 6-0, 190)	G. McDonald (So., 6-0, 192)
WR: Jason Dulick (Sr., 6-4, 200)*	Rob Majoy (So., 5-11, 182)
TE: Matt Cushing (Jr., 6-4, 255)*	Conrad Adams (So., 6-5, 249)
LT: Jay Kuchenbecker (Sr., 6-5, 280)*	Chico Brown (So., 6-8, 336)
LG: Chris Koerwitz (Sr., 6-2, 306)*	Mike Flaar (Fr., 6-5, 305)
C: Chris Brown (Jr., 6-3, 290)*	Tom Schau (So., 6-4, 278)
RG: Brent Taylor (Jr., 6-3, 319)*	Antoine McNutt (Fr., 6-4, 345)
RT: Ryan Schau (So., 6-5, 288)*	J.P. Machado (Fr., 6-3, 296)

DEFENSE

DT: Garrett Johnson (So., 6-3, 274)*	Ola Allibalogun (So., 6-4, 282)
NT: Paul Marshall (Sr., 6-3, 260)*	Mike McGee (Fr., 6-4, 254)
DT: Rameel Connor (Fr., 6-4, 258)	M. Lawrence (Sr., 6-4, 261)
LB: Ryan Murphy (So., 6-3, 247)	Cyron Brown (Jr., 6-5, 231)
LB: Dennis Stallings (Sr., 6-0, 232)*	Oku Satcher (Fr., 6-0, 243)
LB: David James (Jr., 6-0, 244)*	Eric Guenther (So., 6-2, 225)
LB: Manuel Strong (Fr., 6-4, 220)	Danny Clark (Fr., 6-3, 211)
CB: Trevor Starghill (Jr., 5-8, 182)*	Terence Marable (So., 6-1, 184)
CB: James Williams (Jr., 6-0, 188)*	Tony Francis (Fr., 6-2, 197)
SS: Mike Gusich (So., 5-11, 178)	Asim Pleas (Fr., 6-1, 179)
FS: Toriano Woods (Sr., 6-2, 205)	Steve Willis (So., 5-11, 209)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Bret Scheuplein (Jr., 6-2, 196)*	Ryan Tabloff (Jr., 6-2, 191)
P: Jason Higgins (Fr., 6-1, 202)	Dan Ryan (Fr., 6-2, 216)

(* denotes returning starter)



FACTS

COACH: Lou Tepper, 5th year, 23-22-1
'95 RECORD: 5-5-1

HOME STADIUM: Memorial Stadium, Urbana-Champaign, Ill. (69,000, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (9 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Kevin Hardy, LB (1st-team All America); Simeon Rice, LB/DL (2nd-team All America); Antwoine Patton, DB (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Brett Larsen, P (2nd-team All-Big Ten)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Scott Weaver, Sr., 55-103-629 yards, 3 TDs, 10 INTs

RUSHING: Robert Holcombe, Jr., 264 carries, 1,051 yards, 5 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Jason Dulick, Sr., 36, 3 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Dulick, 453

TACKLES: Dennis Stallings, Sr., 130

SACKS: Cyron Brown, Jr., and Garrett Johnson, Soph., 2 each

INTERCEPTIONS: Stallings and Trevor Starghill, Jr., 3 each

PUNTING: None

KICKING: Bret Scheuplein, Jr., 10-17 FGs (long 51), 19-21 PATs

SCORING: Scheuplein, 49 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	at Michigan
Sept. 7	at USC
Sept. 14	at Arizona
Sept. 21	at AKRON
Oct. 5	at INDIANA
Oct. 12	at Michigan State
Oct. 26	at Northwestern
Nov. 2	at IOWA (HC)
Nov. 9	at OHIO STATE
Nov. 16	at Minnesota
Nov. 23	at WISCONSIN

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	at MICHIGAN; L, 38-14
Sept. 9	at Oregon; L, 34-31
Sept. 16	at ARIZONA; W, 9-7
Sept. 23	at EAST CAROLINA; W, 7-0
Oct. 7	at Indiana; W, 17-10
Oct. 14	at MICHIGAN STATE; L, 27-21
Oct. 28	at NORTHWESTERN; L, 17-14
Nov. 4	at Iowa; W, 26-7
Nov. 11	at Ohio State; L, 41-3
Nov. 18	at MINNESOTA; W, 48-14
Nov. 25	at Wisconsin; T, 3-3

MILESTONE

■ Senior wide receiver Jason Dulick is tied for fourth (116) on the school career reception list and needs 44 catches to move into second.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Replace linebacker Kevin Hardy and pass-rush specialist Simeon Rice, both All Americans.
- Develop a consistent and effective passing game.
- Drastic improvement on the offensive line.

BIG TEN



INDIANA

FACTS

COACH: Bill Mallory, 13th year, 65-70-3; 164-122-4 overall
'95 RECORD: 2-9 (0-8 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Memorial Stadium, Bloomington, Ind. (52,354, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (8 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Eric Smedley, FS (Hon. Mention All-Big Ten); Sean Glover, RB; Adam Greenlee, QB; John Hammerstein, OT; Louis Pinnock, DE

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Chris Dittoe, Sr., 102-196-1,214 yards, 3 TDs, 6 INTs
RUSHING: Alex Smith, Jr., 166 carries, 769 yards, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Ajamu Stoner, Sr., 29, 1 TD
RECEIVING (YARDS): Stoner, 412
TACKLES: Aaron Warnecke, Sr., 99
SACKS: Nathan Davis, Sr., 6
INTERCEPTIONS: Joey Eloms, Jr., 4
PUNTING: Alan Sutkowski, Jr., 42.1 avg.
KICKING: Bill Manolopoulos, Sr., 9-12 FGs (long 45), 10-10 PATs
SCORING: Manolopoulos, 37 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 ...at Toledo
 Sept. 14 ...MIAMI (OHIO)
 Sept. 21 ...at Kentucky
 Sept. 28 ...NORTHWESTERN
 Oct. 5 ...at Illinois
 Oct. 12 ...IOWA (HC)
 Oct. 19 ...at Michigan
 Oct. 26 ...PENN STATE
 Nov. 9 ...at Michigan State
 Nov. 16 ...OHIO STATE
 Nov. 23 ...at Purdue

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 9 ...W. MICHIGAN; W, 24-10
 Sept. 16 ...KENTUCKY; L, 17-10
 Sept. 23 ...SOUTHERN MISS.; W, 27-26
 Sept. 30 ...at Northwestern; L, 31-7
 Oct. 7 ...ILLINOIS; L, 17-10
 Oct. 14 ...at Iowa; L, 22-13
 Oct. 21 ...MICHIGAN; L, 34-17
 Oct. 28 ...at Penn State; L, 45-21
 Nov. 11 ...MICHIGAN STATE; L, 31-13
 Nov. 18 ...at Ohio State; L, 42-3
 Nov. 24 ...PURDUE; L, 51-14

MILESTONE

■ Senior kicker Bill Manolopoulos (31 career FGs) needs 18 more field goals to pass Scott Bonnell (48) and Pete Stoyanovich (47) for the top spot on the IU career list.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Offensive line must improve in all phases.
- Quarterback Chris Dittoe must finally live up to potential.
- Alex Smith must stay healthy so running game can return to pre-1995 form.

By JEFF RILEY

Bill Mallory's Hoosiers thought their low point had arrived last season in September when, after two unimpressive non-conference wins, they lost 17-10 at home to Kentucky, which had lost 11 straight.

They were wrong.

Indiana averaged only 12.3 points in its final eight games, and critics attacked the Hoosiers offense. But standout sophomore running back Alex Smith, who rushed for 1,475 yards as a freshman, missed half the season because of injuries and the Hoosiers had no suitable replacement. Without Smith, Indiana's passing game stalled as quarterbacks Chris Dittoe and Adam Greenlee threw 14 interceptions and only four touchdowns.

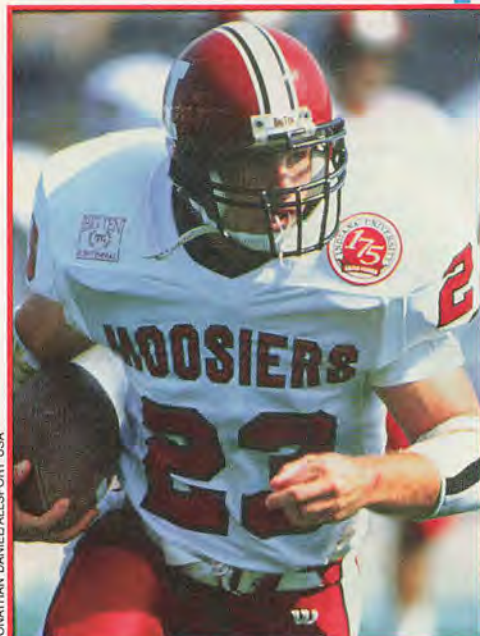
"We have to get back to running the football," Mallory said. "If we can present a better threat with the run, it will help us a lot. In the same breath, our passing game has to do a better job of protecting the quarterback."

OFFENSE: Smith, a junior, was limited to six games last year but still finished with 769 yards. He must return to his durable form of 1994, when he produced the third-highest freshman rushing total in NCAA history. He will get plenty of help from senior fullback Steve Lee (6-1, 250), a blocking specialist who has carried only 19 times in three seasons. Dittoe, a senior, must finally play up to his potential. Last season, he tossed twice as many interceptions (six) as touchdowns (three).

This, of course, hinges on the Hoosiers' ability to put better players up front. Senior center Jay Seib (6-6, 290), senior guards Tom Lukawski (6-2, 285) and Michael Mihelic (6-5, 300) and junior tackle Chris Liwienski (6-6, 295) all return to the starting lineup.

Dittoe also needs consistency from senior Ajamu Stoner (29 catches, 412 yards) and junior Dorian Wilkerson (27 catches, 305 yards).

DEFENSE: With six starters returning, the Hoosiers stand to improve on the 34.1 points they allowed



ALEX SMITH-RB

in conference games last season. The carnage included a 51-14 thrashing by state-rival Purdue, the Hoosiers' worst Old Oaken Bucket defeat since 1966.

The gaping holes are along the defensive line, where senior end Nathan Davis (6-5, 285) is the only returning starter. Indiana's three starting linebackers return, led by seniors Jamie Baisley (6-2, 240) and Matt Surface (6-2, 225), and sophomore Jabar Robinson (6-2, 230). Surface was second on the team in tackles (78) and tackles for a loss (12) last year; Baisley, limited to nine games, was fourth in tackles (67).

Two starters also return in the secondary. Senior strong safety Aaron Warnecke (6-1, 200) led the team in tackles (99) last season, and junior cornerback Joey Eloms (5-11, 182) led the team in interceptions (four) and passes broken up (11). Senior free safety Eric Allen (6-1, 200) moves over from cornerback.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Indiana should have the conference's best kicking tandem in senior place-kicker Bill Manolopoulos and junior punter Alan Sutkowski. Manolopoulos, an All-Big Ten pick as a freshman who never fully recovered from a hip injury last season, has made 69 percent (31 of 45) of his career field goals and needs to match his freshman total of 16 to tie Pete Stoyanovich for second on Indiana's all-time list with 47. Sutkowski averaged 42.1 yards last season, second in the Big Ten.

RECRUITING: The Hoosiers inked *Parade* All-America quarterback Earl Haniford, a local legend from nearby Martinsville who was Indiana's Mr. Football last season. Haniford (6-2, 210) set an Indiana high school record with 11,100 career passing yards, the third best mark nationally, and 111 touchdown passes, fifth best nationally.

Jeff Riley is a free-lance writer based in Indianapolis.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Chris Dittoe (Sr., 6-6, 230)* Jeff Kirn (So., 6-6, 225)
RB: Alex Smith (Jr., 6-0, 205)* Eugene Jones (Fr., 6-3, 220)
RB: Steve Lee (Sr., 6-1, 250) Chris Gall (So., 6-2, 230)
WR: D. Wilkerson (Jr., 6-1, 190)* Jean Paul (So., 6-2, 180)
WR: Ajamu Stoner (Sr., 6-0, 190)* Damian Matthews (So., 5-11, 185)
TE: Ben Klusmeyer (Jr., 6-5, 255) Curt Goode (So., 6-7, 265)
LT: Greg Jenkins (So., 6-7, 280) Khalfani Banks (Jr., 6-5, 310)
LG: Tom Lukawski (Sr., 6-2, 225)* George Batalis (Sr., 6-2, 285)
C: Jay Seib (Sr., 6-6, 290)* Chris Lee (Jr., 6-4, 275)
RG: Mike Mihelic (Sr., 6-5, 300)* Matt Snyder (Fr., 6-2, 260)
RT: Chris Liwienski (Jr., 6-6, 295)* Craig Robeen (Fr., 6-5, 285)

DEFENSE

DE: Nathan Davis (Sr., 6-5, 285)* A. Ogunleye (Fr., 6-4, 245)
DT: Benyard Jones (Jr., 6-3, 270) Victor Allotey (Jr., 6-4, 295)
DT: Bo Barzilauskas (So., 6-6, 290) Yeronimo Ciriaco (Fr., 6-3, 268)
DE: Aaron Williams (So., 6-5, 255) Brian Bobay (Fr., 6-2, 260)
LB: Matt Surface (Sr., 6-2, 225)* Brad Gecina (Fr., 6-2, 220)
LB: Jamie Baisley (Sr., 6-2, 240)* Al Phillips (Fr., 6-0, 225)
LB: Jabar Robinson (So., 6-2, 230)* James Lamar (Fr., 6-1, 225)
CB: Joey Eloms (Jr., 5-11, 182)* Patrick Shaw (Fr., 5-11, 188)
CB: Joe King (Jr., 6-0, 180) Jason May (Jr., 6-1, 195)
SS: A. Warnecke (Sr., 6-1, 200)* Kywin Supernaw (Jr., 5-11, 208)
FS: Eric Allen (Sr., 6-1, 200) Nathan Rabideau (Sr., 5-11, 190)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: B. Manolopoulos (Sr., 5-10, 165)* Michael Irving (So., 6-3, 215)
P: Alan Sutkowski (Jr., 6-1, 185)* Michael Irving (So., 6-3, 215)
 (* denotes returning starter)



STEVE BEYER

SEDRIK SHAW-RB

By **PAT HARTY**

The University of Iowa athletic department was a year early in its "Think Big" campaign, which was used to promote last season. Now would be a more appropriate time for the phrase based on Iowa's strong finish in 1995.

With seven starters back on both offense and defense, Hayden Fry has what appears to be his best team since 1991, when the Hawkeyes finished 10-1-1. Iowa pounded Pacific 10 co-champion Washington, 38-18, in last year's Sun Bowl to finish 8-4.

"We're going to be pretty solid," said Fry, who ranks fourth among active Division I coaches in wins with a 213-162-10 record. "I don't think we'll have any problem with people not respecting us, like we had at times last year."

A total of 17 starters are back when you factor in the punting and kicking triumvirate of All-Big Ten punter Nick Gallery and kickers Brion Hurley and Zach Bromert. Much of Iowa's success will depend on a rejuvenated defense under the direction of first-year coordinator Bobby Elliott. His philosophy should be similar to that of former coordinator Bill Brashier, who retired last season after 17 years as a member of the Iowa staff. Under Brashier, Iowa's defense ranked among the top 10 in the nation four times in the '80s.

OFFENSE: The biggest concern is the offensive line, where three starters and All-Big Ten tight end Scott Slutzker must be replaced. Fifth-year senior Ross Verba has started at left tackle since his freshman season, while senior tailback Sedrick Shaw has rushed for 2,479 yards over the last two seasons, including 135 in a Sun Bowl MVP performance.

Shaw's backup is junior Tavian Banks, who contributed 122 yards in the Sun Bowl. They have a chance to be Iowa's best one-two punch at tailback since Nick Bell and Tony Stewart in 1990.

Junior quarterback Matt Sherman will have the

luxury of throwing to a deep and talented group of receivers, led by junior speedster Tim Dwight, whose nine touchdown receptions in 1995 were the second-most in school history.

DEFENSE: The change at defensive coordinator should not be a distraction. Elliott, who coached Iowa's defensive backs from 1987 to '94, was a popular choice to replace Brashier because of his personality, experience and ties to the Iowa program. His father, Bump Elliott, was the school's athletic director from 1970-'91.

Elliott inherits a defense that held its final three opponents in 1995—Wisconsin, Minnesota and Washington—to a combined rushing total of 71 net yards. Tackle Jared DeVries and linebacker Vernon Rollins were arguably the best freshman combination in the Big Ten last season. Rollins was second on the team with 92 tackles. DeVries was voted the outstanding lineman at the Sun Bowl and led the team with 11 regular-season sacks.

Sophomore Matt Hughes is the leading candidate to replace All-Big Ten linebacker Bobby Diaco in Iowa's 5-2 scheme. Hughes showed a knack for making the big play on special teams last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Iowa's kicking game went from being a liability to a strength last season. So did Hurley. The senior from Iowa City overcame an early-season slump to become college football's version of pro golfer John Daly. He made field goals from 47, 49 and 50 yards in the Sun Bowl. Bromert, a sophomore, will handle the short field goals and PATs.

Gallery could challenge for All-America honors after averaging 45.3 yards on 40 punts last season.

RECRUITING: Iowa's biggest problem was a lack of scholarships. While most Big Ten teams signed 20 to 25 recruits, the Hawkeyes only landed 15 players. Three of the top recruits are from Missouri, including All-America offensive lineman Billy Brann of Blue Springs. Another standout is offensive lineman Justin Craun from Weatherford, Texas.

Pat Harty covers Big Ten football for the Iowa City Press-Citizen.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Matt Sherman (Jr., 6-3, 207)*	Ryan Driscoll (Sr., 6-4, 220)
RB: Sedrick Shaw (Sr., 6-1, 195)*	Tavian Banks (Jr., 5-11, 190)
RB: Michael Burger (So., 6-3, 229)*	Aaron Granquist (Sr., 6-4, 230)
WR: Tim Dwight (Jr., 5-9, 190)*	Richard Willock (Jr., 6-2, 190)
WR: Demo Odems (Sr., 5-10, 175)*	Damon Gibson (Jr., 5-9, 180)
TE: Chris Knipper (So., 6-5, 241)	Zeron Flemister (Fr., 6-5, 215)
LT: Ross Verba (Sr., 6-4, 285)*	Ted Serama (Sr., 6-4, 295)
LG: Matt Reischl (So., 6-5, 285)	Keith Rigrup (Jr., 6-5, 300)
C: Bill Reardon (Sr., 6-3, 265)	Chad Deal (Fr., 6-5, 280)
RG: Mike Goff (Jr., 6-6, 290)*	Shalor Pryor (Fr., 6-4, 280)
RT: Jeremy McKinney (Jr., 6-6, 285)	Jared Kerkhoff (So., 6-6, 260)

DEFENSE

DE: Brett Chambers (Sr., 6-3, 225)	Jason House (Jr., 6-3, 225)
DE: Jared DeVries (So., 6-4, 260)*	Epenesa Epenesa (Sr., 6-4, 260)
NT: Aron Klein (So., 6-4, 270)	Steve English (So., 6-2, 265)
DE: Jon LaFleur (Jr., 6-3, 275)*	Jon Ortleib (Sr., 6-3, 260)
DE: Bill Ennis-Inge (Sr., 6-5, 245)*	Billy Coats (Sr., 5-11, 185)
LB: Matt Hughes (So., 6-3, 235)	Scott Yoder (Jr., 6-2, 228)
LB: Vernon Rollins (So., 6-3, 235)*	Mark Mitchell (Sr., 6-2, 230)
CB: Tom Knight (Sr., 5-11, 190)*	Billy Coats (Sr., 5-11, 185)
CB: Plez Atkins (Jr., 6-0, 180)*	Ed Gibson (Jr., 5-10, 180)
SS: Kerry Cooks (Jr., 6-0, 185)	J.P. Lange (Jr., 6-1, 180)
FS: Damien Robinson (Sr., 6-2, 205)*	Eric Thigpen (So., 6-1, 190)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Zach Bromert (So., 5-10, 180)*	Brion Hurley (Sr., 6-4, 220)*
P: Nick Gallery (Sr., 6-4, 239)*	Brion Hurley (Sr., 6-4, 220)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Hayden Fry, 18th year, 124-73-6; 213-162-10 overall

'95 RECORD: 8-4 (4-4 conf.)

FINAL RANKINGS: No. 25 AP, No. 22 USA

Today/CNN

HOME STADIUM: Kinnick Stadium, Iowa City, Iowa (70,397, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 17 (7 off., 7 def., 3 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Matt Purdy, OL (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Scott Slutzker, TE (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Bobby Diaco, LB (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Casey Wiegmann, C (Hon. mention All-Big Ten)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Matt Sherman, Jr., 159-271-2,406

yards, 14 TDs, 14 INTs

RUSHING: Sedrick Shaw, Sr., 295 carries, 1,342

yards, 14 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Tim Dwight, Jr., 43, 9 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Dwight, 776

TACKLES: Vernon Rollins, Soph., 92

SACKS: Jared DeVries, Soph., 11

INTERCEPTIONS: Plez Atkins, Jr., 6

PUNTING: Nick Gallery, Sr., 45.3 avg.

KICKING: Zach Bromert, Soph., 5-6 FGs (long 37), 32-33 PATs; Brion Hurley, Sr., 2-5 FGs (long 50), 4-6 PATs

SCORING: Shaw, 86 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	. ARIZONA
Sept. 14	. IOWA STATE
Sept. 21	.at Tulsa
Oct. 5	. . MICHIGAN STATE (HC)
Oct. 12	.at Indiana
Oct. 19	.at Penn State
Oct. 26	. OHIO STATE
Nov. 2	. .at Illinois
Nov. 9	. . NORTHWESTERN
Nov. 16	. WISCONSIN
Nov. 23	.at Minnesota

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 9	. NORTHERN IOWA; W, 34-13
Sept. 16	.at Iowa State; W, 27-10
Sept. 30	. NEW MEXICO STATE; W, 59-21
Oct. 7	. .at Michigan State; W, 21-7
Oct. 14	. . INDIANA; W, 22-13
Oct. 21	. . PENN STATE; L, 41-27
Oct. 28	. .at Ohio State; L, 56-35
Nov. 4	. . ILLINOIS; L, 26-7
Nov. 11	. .at Northwestern; L, 31-20
Nov. 18	. .at Wisconsin; W, 33-20
Nov. 25	. . MINNESOTA; W, 45-3
Dec. 29	.vs. Washington in Sun Bowl; W, 38-18

MILESTONE

■ Shaw is the only back in school history to rush for more than 1,000 yards twice in a career (1,002 yards in '94 and 1,477 in '95 including last year's Sun Bowl). The senior from Austin, Texas, is Iowa's all-time leading rusher with 3,040 yards.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Replace three offensive linemen and All-Big Ten tight end Scott Slutzker.
- Continue dominance against the run as exhibited in final three games last season.
- Keep QB Matt Sherman and RB Sedrick Shaw healthy.



MICHIGAN

FACTS

COACH: Lloyd Carr, 2nd year, 9-4
'95 RECORD: 9-4 (5-3 conf.)
FINAL RANKINGS: No. 17 AP, No. 19 USA Today/CNN
HOME STADIUM: Michigan Stadium, Ann Arbor, Mich. (102,501, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (5 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Tim Biakabutuka, RB (entered NFL Draft); Jon Runyan, OL (entered NFL Draft); Mercury Hayes, WR (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Jason Horn, DT (2nd-team All America); Amani Toomer, WR

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Brian Griese, Jr., 118-215-1,395 yds., 11 TDs, 9 INTs
RUSHING: Clarence Williams, Soph., 53 carries, 191 yards, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Chris Howard, Jr., 14, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Howard, 91
TACKLES: Jarrett Irons, Sr., 118
SACKS: Glenn Steele, Jr., 8
INTERCEPTIONS: Charles Woodson, Soph., 5
PUNTING: Nate DeLong, Jr., 39.3 avg.
KICKING: Remy Hamilton, Sr., 17-25 FGs (long 49); 32-33 PATs
SCORING: Hamilton, 83 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 . . . ILLINOIS
 Sept. 14 . . . at Colorado
 Sept. 21 . . . BOSTON COLLEGE
 Sept. 28 . . . UCLA
 Oct. 5 . . . at Northwestern
 Oct. 19 . . . INDIANA (HC)
 Oct. 26 . . . at Minnesota
 Nov. 2 . . . MICHIGAN STATE
 Nov. 9 . . . at Purdue
 Nov. 16 . . . PENN STATE
 Nov. 23 . . . at Ohio State

1995 RESULTS

Aug. 26 . . . VIRGINIA; W, 18-17
 Sept. 2 . . . at Illinois; W, 38-14
 Sept. 9 . . . MEMPHIS; W, 24-7
 Sept. 16 . . . at Boston College; W, 23-13
 Sept. 30 . . . MIAMI (OHIO); W, 38-19
 Oct. 7 . . . NORTHWESTERN; L, 19-13
 Oct. 21 . . . at Indiana; W, 34-17
 Oct. 28 . . . MINNESOTA; W, 52-17
 Nov. 4 . . . at Michigan State; L, 28-25
 Nov. 11 . . . PURDUE; W, 5-0
 Nov. 18 . . . at Penn State; L, 27-17
 Nov. 25 . . . OHIO STATE; W, 31-23
 Dec. 28 . . . vs. Texas A&M in Alamo Bowl; L, 22-20

MILESTONE

■ Remy Hamilton has 42 field goals, and the Big Ten record of 65 set by Wisconsin's Todd Gregoire (1984-'87) is well within range. Hamilton had 25 field goals as a sophomore and 17 as a junior.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Keep the traditions of outstanding receivers and tailbacks in motion with new blood.
- Get better field position from punts and kickoff returns.
- Live up to already big expectations on defense while the offense finds its way.

By STEVE KORNACKI

Michigan was the classic peaks and valleys team in 1995. It overwhelmed second-ranked Ohio State and scored its greatest comeback victory in the Pigskin Classic against Virginia. But the Wolverines also finished 9-4, losing to Northwestern, Michigan State, Penn State and Texas A&M.

It was a season chock-full of highlights—Tim Biakabutuka's 313 yards rushing against the Buckeyes and Scott Dreisbach's TD pass to Mercury Hayes to nip the Cavaliers—but no Big Ten championship or New Year's Day bowl bid resulted.

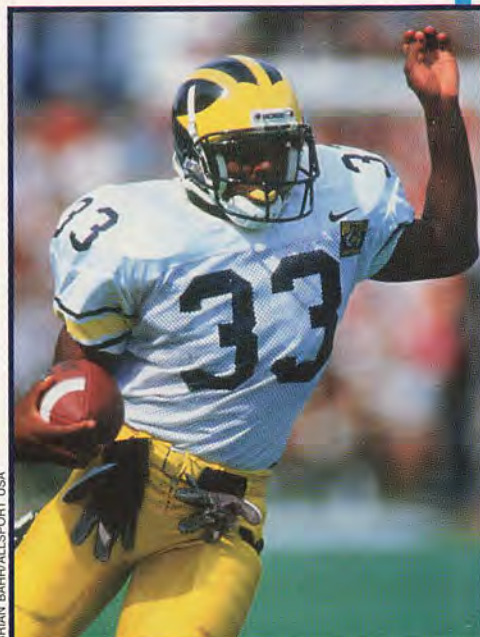
This season's fate could hinge on the much-anticipated rematch at Colorado on Sept. 14. The Buffaloes used the "Miracle at Michigan"—a 64-yard game-ending touchdown pass from Kordell Stewart to Michael Westbrook—to beat the Wolverines in Ann Arbor two years ago.

Michigan has nine starters returning on defense, spearheaded by linebacker Jarrett Irons. But, besides having Dreisbach and Brian Griese back at quarterback, the Wolverines were wiped out at the skill positions.

OFFENSE: It will be a season of new offensive heroes in Ann Arbor. Tai Streets becomes the go-to receiver, and either Chris Howard or Clarence Williams will be the next tailback. Fans became accustomed to Biakabutuka, Hayes, split end Amani Toomer and tight end Jay Riemersma going for big yardage and touchdowns. Those four accounted for exactly 74 percent of Michigan's total offense with 3,595 yards. But they're all gone, with Biakabutuka opting early for the NFL draft.

"I expect Chris Howard to be excellent and Clarence Williams has shown flashes of brilliance," head coach Lloyd Carr said. "I'm excited to see what those guys can do. But I feel we're stronger at quarterback with Dreisbach and Griese. Where last year we were uncertain at quarterback, now it's a strength."

Dreisbach started four games before tearing liga-



BRIAN BAHRL/SPORT USA

CLARENCE WILLIAMS-RB

ments in his right thumb that required two surgeries. Griese took his place and threw for 1,395 yards, 11 touchdowns and nine interceptions. Either could start, but Dreisbach most likely gets the nod.

Center Rod Payne anchors a line that has two quality guards, Zach Adami and Damon Denson. Jon Jansen has plenty of potential at tackle.

"Payne is an All-America candidate," Carr said. "If healthy, he will be the best center in the country."

DEFENSE: The Wolverines could have one of the premier defenses in the nation with Irons, a Butkus Award candidate, and cornerbacks Clarence Thompson and Charles Woodson. Michigan led the Big Ten in total defense and ranked 11th nationally last season.

Irons had 118 tackles and was speedy enough to register eight pass breakups. Woodson had five interceptions as a freshman and was key in beating the Buckeyes. William Carr had a team-high 19 tackles for a loss and controls the line.

All-America tackle Jason Horn and tackle Trent Zenkewicz will be missed, but the Wolverines are deep up front.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Remy Hamilton is one of the most dependable field-goal kickers in the country. He has 42 for his career, and needs 16 to become Michigan's career leader. The Wolverines ranked last in the conference with 15.4 yards per kickoff return, and were ninth in net punting at 32.7 yards. Incoming freshman Cory Sargent could instantly remedy the punting problem, and Carr is searching for answers on returns.

RECRUITING: Two USA Today All Americans—defensive back Tommy Hendricks of Houston and offensive tackle Jeff Backus of Norcross, Ga.—are the headliners. Jason Kapsner, a Detroit Free Press "Best of the Midwest" quarterback from Eden Prairie, Minn., also was a big catch.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE			
QB: Scott Dreisbach (So., 6-4, 209)*	Brian Griese (Jr., 6-3, 209)		
RB: Chris Howard (Jr., 5-10, 208)	Clarence Williams (So., 5-9, 170)		
RB: Chris Floyd (Jr., 6-1, 222)*	Aaron Shea (Fr., 6-5, 240)		
WR: Tai Streets (So., 6-2, 178)	Todd Brooks (So., 6-0, 189)		
WR: A. Williams (Jr., 5-10, 180)	Tyrone Butterfield (So., 5-8, 175)		
TE: Jerame Tuman (So., 6-4, 235)	Mark Campbell (So., 6-6, 242)		
LT: Jon Jansen (So., 6-7, 277)*	John Partchenko (Jr., 6-4, 281)		
LG: Zach Adami (Jr., 6-5, 279)*	Noah Parker (So., 6-4, 279)		
C: Rod Payne (Sr., 6-4, 285)*	Joe Ries (Jr., 6-3, 286)		
RG: Damon Denson (Sr., 6-4, 288)	Joe Ries (Jr., 6-3, 286)		
RT: Thomas Guynes (Sr., 6-5, 285)	Jeff Potts (Fr., 6-7, 285)		
DEFENSE			
DE: Glen Steele (Jr., 6-5, 271)*	James Hall (Fr., 6-3, 234)		
DT: William Carr (Sr., 6-0, 269)*	Rob Renes (Fr., 6-1, 269)		
DT: Ben Huff (Jr., 6-4, 267)	Josh Williams (Fr., 6-1, 269)		
DE: Juvaquin Feazell (So., 6-4, 260)	Rasheed Simmons (So., 6-5, 235)		
LB: Rob Swett (Jr., 6-3, 229)*	Sam Sword (So., 6-2, 242)		
LB: Jarrett Irons (Sr., 6-1, 231)*	Clint Copenhaver (So., 6-4, 223)		
LB: David Bowens (So., 6-3, 228)	Mike Elston (Jr., 6-4, 243)*		
CB: C. Thompson (Sr., 6-1, 198)*	Woody Hankins (Sr., 5-9, 197)		
CB: C. Woodson (So., 6-1, 192)*	Andre Weathers (So., 6-0, 184)		
SS: Steve King (Sr., 6-1, 193)*	Marcus Ray (So., 6-0, 197)		
FS: Chuck Winters (Sr., 6-0, 200)*	Brent Washington (Fr., 6-0, 175)		
SPECIAL TEAMS			
K: Remy Hamilton (Sr., 6-0, 193)*	Jay Feely (So., 5-10, 180)		
P: Paul Peristeris (Sr., 6-2, 204)*	Cory Sargent (Fr., 6-3, 185)		

(* denotes returning starter)

Steve Kornacki is a staff writer for the Detroit Free Press.

MICHIGAN STATE

S



MARC RENAUD-RB

JOHANN DANIEL/SPORT USA

By STEVE KORNACKI

Nick Saban accomplished more than expected in his first season as Michigan State's head coach. The Spartans had their first winning season since 1990 and played in the Independence Bowl. But Saban, the former defensive coordinator of the then-Cleveland Browns, knows you can't hang your hat on 6-5-1 in East Lansing. He ran Michigan State's defense when it won the 1988 Rose Bowl.

"We must believe in ourselves and get rid of self-imposed limitations," Saban said.

The 45-26 loss to LSU in the Independence Bowl was Exhibit A in Saban's case for improved focus and discipline as MSU prepares for its 100th season. He suspended three players for breaking curfew before the bowl game, and then had a player ejected for choking an LSU player and another flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct.

"In bowl games, you need poise," Saban said. "I was disappointed we lost our poise and acted in ways I can't condone. But it was part of our development process."

OFFENSE: Michigan State must rebuild its offensive line and find a suitable replacement for quarterback Tony Banks to have another potent offense. Banks had perhaps the strongest arm in the Big Ten and could stretch defenses with his ability to strike quickly at any point on the field. He threw for 1,741 yards in eight regular-season games.

Notre Dame transfer Gus Ornstein and junior Todd Schultz are the top quarterbacks in waiting. Schultz was 2-1 as a starter last year in games Banks missed, and Ornstein opted against being a career backup for Irish star Ron Powlus.

"Todd is going to get the chance and hopefully can continue to improve," Saban said. "He showed good signs last year. Gus is very competitive, and on the scout team last year showed us an excellent arm and capabilities as a passer."

Tailback Marc Renaud rushed for 1,057 yards

(including the bowl game), but a rebuilt line could determine whether he has another big season. Tackle Flozell Adams and guard Brian Mosallam are the only returning starters up front. Flanker Derrick Mason (47 catches, 713 yards, 4 TDs) could have a 1,000-yard receiving season with wideout Muhsin Muhammad (696 yards) graduated.

DEFENSE: Michigan State ranked next-to-last in the Big Ten last season by allowing 207 rushing yards per game. The Spartans also ranked last in stopping third-down attempts.

"We allowed too many points and too many big plays," Saban said.

Eight starters return, however, keyed by three of the top four leading tacklers from a year ago, middle linebacker Reggie Garnett (104 tackles) and outside linebackers Carl Reaves (74) and Ike Reese (63).

"Reggie and Ike had the most consistent ability to make plays," said Saban, "and Reaves was consistent. And we saw a big difference when Sorie Kanu became our free safety as a freshman. He can make plays."

SPECIAL TEAMS: Mason was one of the nation's premier return threats last season. He took two kickoffs for touchdowns and one punt for another. His 26.3-yard average on kickoffs was 10th in the nation.

Junior placekicker Chris Gardner was reliable from close range, but he didn't hit one longer than 37 yards. Punting chores won't be decided until the fall, but the Spartans received a boost when junior Roger Fleenor transferred after Pacific dropped its program in the off-season.

RECRUITING: Renaud is expected to share the running load with *USA Today* All-America tailback Sedrick Irvin of Miami, whom the Spartans won in a heated recruiting battle with Tennessee.

Defensive end Robaire Smith of Flint (Mich.) Northern, the younger brother of Minnesota Vikings defensive end Fernando Smith, also has the makings of a big-play recruit.

Steve Kornacki is a staff writer for the Detroit Free Press.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Todd Schultz (Jr., 6-4, 201)	Gus Ornstein (So., 6-5, 210)
RB: Marc Renaud (Jr., 5-10, 185)*	Antwain Patrick (Jr., 5-11, 187)
RB: Travis Reese (Jr., 6-3, 258)	Garett Gould (So., 6-2, 230)
WR: Derrick Mason (Sr., 5-11, 190)*	Charles Clark (Jr., 6-1, 165)
WR: Nigea Carter (Sr., 6-2, 178)	Octavio Long (Jr., 5-11, 174)
TE: Josh Keur (Jr., 6-5, 275)*	Marcus Chapman (So., 6-5, 245)
LT: Dave Mudge (Jr., 6-7, 287)	Shane Adkins (Fr., 6-7, 260)
LG: Scott Shaw (Jr., 6-3, 295)	Max Nixon (Fr., 6-4, 205)
C: Casey Jensen (Fr., 6-6, 290)	Jason Strayhorn (So., 6-3, 270)
RG: Brian Mosallam (Sr., 6-2, 280)*	Don Walker (Jr., 6-3, 305)
RT: Flozell Adams (Jr., 6-7, 335)*	Josh Freeman (Jr., 6-6, 265)

DEFENSE

DE: D. Underwood (So., 6-6, 250)	Matt Laurino (Fr., 6-4, 260)
DT: Greg Reid (So., 6-3, 267)	Davarrio Carter (Fr., 6-3, 280)
RT: Chris Smith (Sr., 6-3, 253)*	Robert Newkirk (Fr., 6-4, 280)
DE: Jabbar Threats Sr., 6-6, 245)*	Tim Laws (So., 6-3, 250)
LB: Carl Reaves (Sr., 6-4, 227)*	Courtney Ledyard (So., 6-3, 230)
LB: Reggie Garnett (Sr., 6-1, 228)*	Tyrone Garland (Jr., 6-0, 217)
LB: Ike Reese (Jr., 6-3, 211)*	Dwayne Hawkins (So., 6-3, 125)
CB: Brian Echols (Sr., 6-2, 192)	Amp Campbell (So., 6-0, 180)
CB: Ray Hill (Jr., 6-1, 178)*	Aldi Henry (Sr., 5-10, 180)
SS: Marvin Wright (Sr., 6-1, 218)*	Dan Hackenbracht (Jr., 6-2, 185)
FS: Sorie Kanu (So., 6-1, 190)*	Lemar Marshall (So., 6-3, 200)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Chris Gardner (Jr., 5-9, 185)*	Adam Barisch (So., 6-2, 201)
P: Roger Fleenor (Jr., 6-1, 185)	John Muskett (So., 6-2, 202)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Nick Saban, 2nd year, 6-5-1; 15-7-1 overall

'95 RECORD: 6-5-1 (4-3-1 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Spartan Stadium, East Lansing, Mich. (73,000, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (5 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Bob Denton, OL (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Yakini Allen, DL (Hon. mention All-Big Ten); Tony Banks, QB (Hon. mention All-Big Ten); Scott Greene, RB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Todd Schultz, Jr., 52-83-570 yards, 2 TDs, 6 INTs

RUSHING: Marc Renaud, Jr., 200 carries, 978 yards, 3 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Derrick Mason, Sr., 47, 4 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Mason, 713

TACKLES: Reggie Garnett, Sr., 104

SACKS: Chris Smith and Jabbar Threats, Jr., 5 each

INTERCEPTIONS: Sorie Kanu, 2

PUNTING: None

KICKINGS: Chris Gardner, Jr., 11-15 FGs (long 37), 24-26 PATs

SCORING: Gardner, 57 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	..PURDUE
Sept. 7	..at Nebraska
Sept. 21	..LOUISVILLE
Sept. 28	..EASTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 5	..at Iowa
Oct. 12	..ILLINOIS (HC)
Oct. 19	..at Minnesota
Oct. 26	..WISCONSIN
Nov. 2	..at Michigan
Nov. 9	..INDIANA
Nov. 23	..at Penn State

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 9	..NEBRASKA; L, 50-10
Sept. 16	..at Louisville; W, 30-7
Sept. 23	..at Purdue; T, 35-35
Sept. 30	..BOSTON COLLEGE; W, 25-21
Oct. 7	..IOWA; L, 21-7
Oct. 14	..at Illinois; W, 27-21
Oct. 21	..MINNESOTA; W, 34-31
Oct. 28	..at Wisconsin; L, 45-14
Nov. 4	..MICHIGAN; W, 28-25
Nov. 11	..at Indiana; W, 31-13
Nov. 25	..PENN STATE; L, 24-20
Dec. 29	..vs. LSU in Independence Bowl; L, 45-26

MILESTONES

- Derrick Mason is the Big Ten's career leader with 2,051 yards in kickoff returns, and he should surpass the NCAA record of 2,642 by Southwestern Louisiana's Joe Redding (1985-'88) if healthy.
- This is the 100th season of MSU football.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Hope a solid group of linebackers can keep the defense from being run over again.
- Establish a quality lead quarterback.
- Build a dependable offensive line around two returning starters.

BIG TEN



MINNESOTA

BIG TEN

FACTS

COACH: Jim Wacker, 5th year, 12-32; 156-123-3 overall
'95 RECORD: 3-8 (1-7 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, Minneapolis, Minn. (63,699, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 13 (4 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Todd Jesewitz, C (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Mike Chalberg, K (Hon. mention All-Big Ten); Mike Giovineti, OT (Hon. mention All-Big Ten); Chris Darkins, RB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Cory Sauter, Jr., 204-338-2,600 yards, 18 TDs, 13 INTs
RUSHING: Rafael Cooper, Jr., 112 carries, 471 yards, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Ryan Thelwell, Jr., 58, 6 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Thelwell, 775
TACKLES: Crawford Jordan, Jr., 58
SACKS: Lamanzer Williams, Jr., 3
INTERCEPTIONS: Rodney Heath, Sr., 5
PUNTING: Tim Grate, Soph., 39.8 avg.
KICKING: None
SCORING: Thelwell, 38 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 ... at NE Louisiana
 Sept. 14 ... BALL STATE
 Sept. 21 ... SYRACUSE
 Oct. 5 ... at Purdue
 Oct. 12 ... at Northwestern
 Oct. 19 ... MICHIGAN STATE (HC)
 Oct. 26 ... MICHIGAN
 Nov. 2 ... at Ohio State
 Nov. 9 ... at Wisconsin
 Nov. 16 ... ILLINOIS
 Nov. 23 ... IOWA

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 16 ... BALL STATE; W, 31-7
 Sept. 23 ... at Syracuse; L, 27-17
 Sept. 30 ... ARKANSAS STATE; W, 55-7
 Oct. 7 ... PURDUE; W, 39-38
 Oct. 14 ... NORTHWESTERN; L, 27-17
 Oct. 21 ... at Michigan State; L, 34-31
 Oct. 28 ... at Michigan; L, 52-17
 Nov. 4 ... OHIO STATE; L, 49-21
 Nov. 11 ... WISCONSIN; L, 34-27
 Nov. 18 ... at Illinois; L, 48-14
 Nov. 25 ... at Iowa; L, 45-3

MILESTONE

■ QB Cory Sauter enters his junior season ranked ninth on Minnesota's all-time passing list with 2,680 yards. A performance similar to last season (2,600 yards) would move him close to Marquel Fleetwood's school record of 5,279 yards.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a replacement for RB Chris Darkins.
- Drastically improve run defense and become more physical on 'D.'
- Grab a couple early victories to build momentum.

By PAT HARTY

Even a nice guy like Jim Wacker has a breaking point. Minnesota's embattled coach responded to a dismal 1995 season by overhauling his defensive coaching staff. The Gophers have four new coaches on defense, including coordinator Tim Rose, who comes highly regarded from the University of Cincinnati.

Wacker was given a two-year extension on his contract, which means he better win this season. But for that to happen, the Gophers must improve drastically on defense. They allowed 368 points in 11 games last season, or 33.5 points per game. Another concern is finding a replacement for tailback Chris Darkins, who, despite missing much of last season with an ankle injury, finished his career as Minnesota's second all-time leading rusher with 3,235 yards. The leading candidate is former Detroit prep star Rafael Cooper, who rushed for 471 yards in Darkins' absence.

Wacker is counting on several junior college recruits to help immediately on defense. The offense has a chance to be explosive if the line provides enough protection for strong-armed quarterback Cory Sauter.

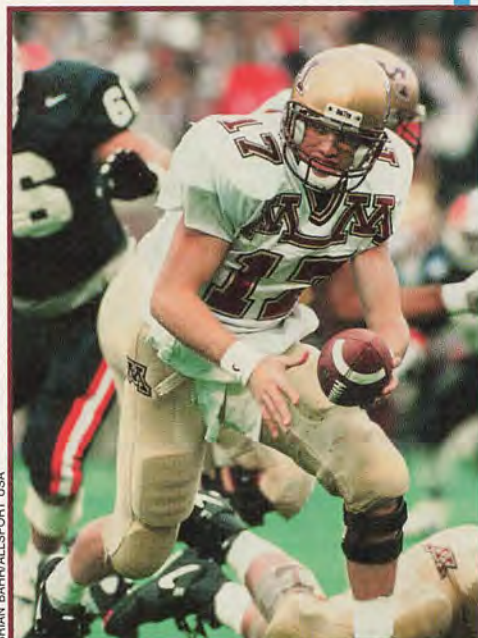
OFFENSE: Scoring touchdowns was not a problem for the Gophers last season as evidenced by their 24.7 points per game average. Receivers Tutu Atwell and Ryan Thelwell are back after combining for more than 1,500 yards and 11 touchdowns in 1995.

Sauter has the size (6-foot-5, 215 pounds) and experience (11 starts) to blossom as a quarterback. He set new single-season school records with 2,600 passing yards and a .604 completion percentage last season as a sophomore.

"We can only get better," Sauter said. "The final results go through the players. It's up to us to turn it around."

A major concern is the offensive line, where three starters graduated, including All-Big Ten performer Todd Jesewitz.

DEFENSE: The Gophers will switch from a 4-3



CORY SAUTER-QB

alignment to a 3-4 to better utilize their quickness. Minnesota gave up more than 250 yards rushing in five Big Ten games last season.

"We've got to step it up on defense," Wacker said. "If we do turn it around, these kids are going to have a lot to do with it."

Wacker is counting on several junior college recruits to play immediately at linebacker. The loss of departed seniors Craig Sauer and Justin Conzemius has created a void at that position.

The strength on defense will be the secondary, led by the versatile Rodney Heath. He will play strong safety this season after leading the team with five interceptions as a cornerback in 1995. He also is a talented punt returner, having averaged 10.8 yards a return (22nd in the nation) last season.

Somebody must emerge as an impact player on the line in order for Minnesota to improve. Senior co-captain Jerome Davis is the best possibility. He started all 11 games last season and had 41 tackles, including 2.5 sacks.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Finding a replacement for honorable mention All-Big Ten kicker Mike Chalberg, who finished his career last season as Minnesota's No. 6 all-time leading scorer, is the top priority. Sophomores Adam Bailey and Erin McManus will battle it out. Wacker is high on incoming freshman punter Steve Kempf, who will battle incumbent Tim Grate after averaging 44 yards per punt as a high school senior.

RECRUITING: Of the 14 players who signed with the Gophers, eight were recruited to play defense. Junior college linebackers Ryan Venturine and Donny Dalton were brought in to play immediately, likewise with JUCO lineman Jerome Elliott. On the downside, Wacker lost out on the top prep recruit in the state of Minnesota—QB Jason Kapsner—to Michigan.

Pat Harty covers Big Ten football for the Iowa City Press-Citizen.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Cory Sauter (Jr., 6-5, 215)* **Rob Jones** (Sr., 6-2, 217)
RB: Rafael Cooper (Jr., 5-11, 186) **Jovan Jackson** (Jr., 6-0, 191)
SB: Tutu Atwell (Jr., 5-9, 165) **Derrick Harvey** (Jr., 5-10, 185)
WR: Greg Nelson (Jr., 6-2, 198) **Lee Hutton** (So., 5-11, 165)
WR: Ryan Thelwell (Jr., 6-2, 180)* **Ryan Hubbard** (Jr., 6-2, 206)
TE: Paul Kratochvil (Sr., 6-4, 234) **Mark Tangen** (Sr., 6-2, 241)
LT: Luke Herkenhoff (Jr., 6-5, 281) **Kris Hoffarth** (Fr., 6-5, 295)
LG: Chris Bergstrom (Sr., 6-3, 307)* **Jon Albrecht** (So., 6-6, 305)
C: Gregg James (Jr., 6-4, 280) **Tim Socha** (So., 6-6, 306)
RG: Jeff Baldauf (Jr., 6-6, 313) **Tim Socha** (So., 6-6, 306)
RT: Gann Brooks (Sr., 6-8, 302)* **James Elizondo** (Jr., 6-4, 273)

DEFENSE

DT: Antoine Richard (So., 6-4, 270)* **Jerome Elliott** (Jr., 6-5, 265)
NT: Ogun Akbar (Sr., 6-3, 253)* **Dave Watson** (So., 6-5, 238)
DT: Jerome Davis (Sr., 6-5, 265)* **L. Williams** (Jr., 6-4, 255)
LB: Mark Cross (Jr., 6-3, 234) **Ryan Venturine** (Jr., 6-3, 230)
LB: Parc Williams (So., 6-3, 230) **Deon White** (So., 6-2, 229)
LB: Ben Langford (Sr., 6-2, 220)* **Donny Dalton** (Jr., 6-0, 230)
LB: Don Williams (Sr., 6-2, 195) **Rufus Smith** (So., 6-2, 218)
CB: Terrance Blayne (Sr., 5-11, 177)* **Mari Moore** (So., 6-2, 165)
CB: Craig Scruggs (So., 5-9, 165) **Joe Justice** (Sr., 5-10, 177)
SS: Rodney Heath (Sr., 5-10, 170)* **Tyrone Carter** (Fr., 5-9, 165)
FS: Rishon Early (Sr., 6-1, 175)* **C. Jordan** (Jr., 5-11, 172)*

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Erin McManus (So., 5-9, 192) **Adam Bailey** (So., 5-10, 187)
P: Tim Grate (So., 6-0, 194)* **Steve Kempf** (Fr., 6-1, 185)
 (* denotes returning starter)

NORTHWESTERN



DARNELL AUTRY- RB

By **HERB GOULD**

If a traditional power was coming off the Rose Bowl season Northwestern just had, and returned as many important parts as the Wildcats, do the experts would be making them the favorite for a return trip to Pasadena this January.

Nine players, including junior tailback sensation and Heisman Trophy finalist Darnell Autry, are back on offense this season. And while the NU defense officially returns four starters, including Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year Pat Fitzgerald, it fills five of its defensive vacancies with experienced personnel. Couple that with a soft non-conference schedule, and Northwestern, which was only a couple of plays from going unbeaten last season, has high hopes for defending its title.

"It wasn't a fairy-tale season," said national Coach of the Year Gary Barnett, who wearied of the Cinderella label. "But it was a wonderful season. I don't know if losing the Rose Bowl tarnished our season. The season wasn't what it could have been, but we're proud of each other. And now, because we didn't win the Rose Bowl, we have to come back and do that. That's how we'll approach this season."

The Wildcats had better watch their backs, though. Plenty of their Big Ten brethren, including perennial stalwarts such as Michigan and Penn State, will be eager to take them down.

OFFENSE: Autry, who finished fourth in the nation in rushing with 1,675 yards (14 TDs), heads a grind-it-out, no-mistakes attack that complements NU's opportunistic defense. Junior wideout D'Wayne Bates (42 catches, 744 yards) is the most potent weapon in a passing offense that finished last in the Big Ten. Senior Steve Schnur, who threw for a career-high 336 yards in the Rose Bowl, returns at quarterback. He was intercepted just five times last season.

DEFENSE: For all the Autry panache, this is where

Barnett and Co. get the job done. Whether Northwestern, which led the nation in scoring defense (12.7 points per game), can duplicate last year's success could hinge on the defense's ability to make big plays and avoid big mistakes. Last fall, the 'Cats were a plus-20 in turnover margin, with an impressive 32 takeaways (16 fumbles and 16 interceptions).

Fitzgerald figures to be joined in linebacker duties by junior Don Holmes, who stepped in after Fitzgerald broke his leg against Iowa, and senior Tim Scharf (58 tackles, two sacks). On the line, experienced backups Keith Lozowski and Ray Robey join fellow senior returnee Casey Dailey, who tied returning senior lineman Matt Rice with a team-leading six sacks in '95.

The secondary, which lost both cornerbacks and its free safety, presents the biggest rebuilding job. However, with impact nickel back Hudhaifa Ismaeli (five sacks, 10 tackles for a loss) and Eric Collier (94 tackles) returning, Northwestern isn't completely green.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Placekicker Brian Gowins, who stepped in when Sam Valenzisi injured his knee last Oct. 21, has a strong leg. Senior Paul Burton, who blasted a 90-yard punt against Indiana last season, has a tremendous leg. Senior Brian Musso was ninth nationally in punt returns (14.0 yards per return).

RECRUITING: The flip side of having so many people back is that Northwestern brought in only 16 recruits. Barnett thinks they'll make up for quantity with their quality. The Rose Bowl, he said, "enabled us to grow fast and strong. In the past, we probably would have lost half these kids."

In 6-foot-5, 205-pound Corbett Elsen of Grand Rapids, Mich., Barnett has landed a player he calls "unquestionably the most talented quarterback we have ever recruited."

Barnett is also high on linebacker Anawn Jones of Van Nuys, Calif., and running back Ian Miller of Spring Valley, Calif. ☺

Herb Gould covers college football for the Chicago Sun-Times.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Steve Schnur (Sr., 6-0, 192)*	Chris Hamdorf (Sr., 6-2, 198)
RB: Darnell Autry (Jr., 5-11, 209)*	Adrian Autry (Jr., 5-11, 189)
RB: Matt Hartl (Jr., 6-2, 233)*	Levell Brown (So., 5-11, 202)
WR: Dave Beazley (Sr., 5-10, 183)*	Brian Musso (Sr., 6-1, 185)
WR: D'Wayne Bates (Jr., 6-2, 208)*	T. Waterman (Sr., 6-1, 208)
TE: Darren Drexler (Sr., 6-6, 258)*	Joel Stuart (Jr., 6-6, 229)
LT: Brian Kardos (Sr., 6-4, 298)*	Brian Hemmerle (So., 6-7, 294)
LG: Justin Chabot (Sr., 6-6, 292)*	Chad Pugh (Sr., 6-3, 279)
C: Nathan Strikwerda (Sr., 6-3, 272)	S. Offenbacher (Jr., 6-1, 265)
RG: Kevin Peterson (Sr., 6-4, 283)	Bryan LaBelle (Jr., 6-6, 305)
RT: Paul Janus (Sr., 6-5, 287)*	Jason Wendland (Sr., 6-5, 286)

DEFENSE

DE: Keith Lozowski (Sr., 6-2, 262)	Thor Schmidt (Jr., 6-3, 242)
DE: Matt Rice (Sr., 6-3, 270)*	Joe Reiff (Sr., 6-4, 274)
DE: Ray Robey (Sr., 6-3, 270)	KeJaun DuBose (Sr., 6-2, 260)
DE: Casey Dailey (Sr., 6-4, 249)*	Jon Burns (Jr., 6-5, 275)
LB: Kevin Buck (So., 6-1, 202)	Don Holmes (Jr., 6-0, 251)
LB: Pat Fitzgerald (Sr., 6-2, 233)*	Barry Gardner (Jr., 6-1, 237)
LB: Tim Scharf (Sr., 6-2, 243)	Tucker Morrison (Sr., 6-1, 239)
CB: Hudhaifa Ismaeli (Sr., 5-11, 202)	Fred Wilkerson (Jr., 6-2, 190)
CB: Josh Barnes (Jr., 5-10, 173)	Gerald Conway (So., 6-0, 161)
SS: Eric Collier (Sr., 6-1, 217)*	Matt Stewart (Sr., 5-11, 201)
FS: Mike Nelson (Jr., 6-1, 205)	Kyle Sanders (So., 5-11, 188)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Brian Gowins (Jr., 5-9, 160)	Shannon Jones (Jr., 5-9, 197)
P: Paul Burton (Sr., 5-11, 191)*	Tim Hughes (Sr., 6-2, 213)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Gary Barnett, 5th year, 18-26-1; 26-37-2 overall

'95 RECORD: 10-2 (8-0 conf.)

FINAL RANKINGS: No. 8 AP, No. 7 USA Today/CNN

HOME STADIUM: Dych Stadium, Evanston, Ill.

(55,000 artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (9 off., 4 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Sam Valenzisi, K (2nd-team All

America); Rob Johnson, C (1st-team All-Big Ten);

Ryan Padgett, OL (1st-team All-Big Ten); Chris Mar-

tin, DB (1st-team All-Big Ten)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Steve Schnur, Sr., 118-218-1,456 yards, 9 TDs, 5 INTs

RUSHING: Darnell Autry, Jr., 355 carries, 1,675

yards, 14 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): D'Wayne Bates, Jr., 42, 5 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Bates, 744

TACKLES: Pat Fitzgerald, Sr., 130

SACKS: Casey Dailey and Matt Rice, Srs., 6 each

INTERCEPTIONS: Eric Collier, Sr., 3

PUNTING: Paul Burton, Sr., 39.7 avg.

KICKING: Brian Gowins, Jr., 3-6 FGs (long 50), 12-13 PATs

SCORING: Autry, 90 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 . . . at Wake Forest

Sept. 14 . . . at Duke

Sept. 21 . . . OHIO

Sept. 28 . . . at Indiana

Oct. 5 . . . MICHIGAN

Oct. 12 . . . MINNESOTA

Oct. 19 . . . at Wisconsin

Oct. 26 . . . ILLINOIS (HC)

Nov. 2 . . . at Penn State

Nov. 9 . . . at Iowa

Nov. 16 . . . PURDUE

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . . at Notre Dame; W, 17-15

Sept. 16 . . . MIAMI (OHIO); L, 30-28

Sept. 23 . . . AIR FORCE; W, 30-6

Sept. 30 . . . INDIANA; W, 31-7

Oct. 7 . . . at Michigan; W, 19-13

Oct. 14 . . . at Minnesota; W, 27-17

Oct. 21 . . . WISCONSIN; W, 35-0

Oct. 28 . . . at Illinois; W, 17-14

Nov. 4 . . . ILLIN STATE; W, 21-10

Nov. 11 . . . IOWA; W, 31-20

Nov. 18 . . . at Purdue; W, 23-8

Jan. 1 . . . vs. Southern Cal at Rose Bowl; L, 41-32

MILESTONE

■ Another 10-2 season would make Gary Barnett 28-28-1, good enough to become the Wildcats' first career .500 coach since Ara Parseghian (36-35-1 in 1956-'63).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Improve a passing game that was dead last in the Big Ten a year ago.
- Maintain the turnover ratio (plus-20 in '95).
- Replace three starters in the secondary.



OHIO STATE

FACTS

COACH: John Cooper, 9th year, 65-28-4; 147-68-6 overall
'95 RECORD: 11-2 (7-1 conf.)
FINAL RANKINGS: No. 6 AP, No. 8 USA Today/CNN
HOME STADIUM: Ohio Stadium, Columbus, Ohio (89,841, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 18 (6 off., 10 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Eddie George, RB (1st-team All America); Terry Glenn, WR (left early for NFL Draft); Bobby Hoving, QB (1st-team All-Big Ten); Ricky Dudley, TE (1st-team All-Big Ten)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Stanley Jackson, Jr., 16-25-202 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Pepe Pearson, Jr., 82 carries, 384 yards, 3 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Buster Tillman, Sr., 29, 1 TD
RECEIVING (YARDS): Tillman, 531
TACKLES: Greg Bellisari, Sr., 93
SACKS: Mike Vrabel, Sr., 12
INTERCEPTIONS: Shawn Springs, Jr., 5
PUNTING: Brent Bartholomew, Soph., 36.9 avg.
KICKING: Josh Jackson, Sr., 10-15 FGs (long 39), 56-59 PATs
SCORING: Jackson, 86 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 ...RICE
 Sept. 21 ...PITTSBURGH
 Sept. 28 ...at Notre Dame
 Oct. 5 ...PENN STATE
 Oct. 12 ...WISCONSIN (HC)
 Oct. 19 ...at Purdue
 Oct. 26 ...at Iowa
 Nov. 2 ...MINNESOTA
 Nov. 9 ...at Illinois
 Nov. 16 ...at Iowa
 Nov. 23 ...MICHIGAN

1995 RESULTS

Aug. 20 ...vs. Boston College; W, 38-6*
 Sept. 16 ...WASHINGTON; W, 30-20
 Sept. 23 ...at Pittsburgh; W, 54-14
 Sept. 30 ...NOTRE DAME; W, 45-26
 Oct. 7 ...at Penn State; W, 28-25
 Oct. 14 ...at Wisconsin; W, 27-16
 Oct. 21 ...PURDUE; W, 28-0
 Oct. 28 ...IOWA; W, 56-35
 Nov. 4 ...at Minnesota; W, 49-21
 Nov. 11 ...ILLINOIS; W, 41-3
 Nov. 18 ...INDIANA; W, 42-3
 Nov. 25 ...at Michigan; L, 31-23
 Jan. 1 ...vs. Tennessee in Florida Citrus Bowl; L, 20-14

* Kickoff Classic (at E. Rutherford, N.J.)

MILESTONE

■ With one more Heisman Trophy winner, Ohio State would tie Notre Dame for the title of Heisman U. Eddie George was the Buckeyes' sixth winner. Notre Dame leads with seven.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find an effective starting QB to replace Bobby Hoving.
- Beef up the middle of the run defense.
- Find a spot in the secondary for talented sophomore Antoine Winfield.

By HERB GOULD

At most schools, an 11-2 record would be cause for rejoicing. But not at Ohio State, which takes a two-game losing streak into this season after falling flat against arch-rival Michigan and then losing to Tennessee in the Citrus Bowl. The loss to Michigan cost Ohio State a trip to the Rose Bowl and any chance at the national title, and the bowl defeat was the Buckeyes' sixth in seven postseason games under coach John Cooper.

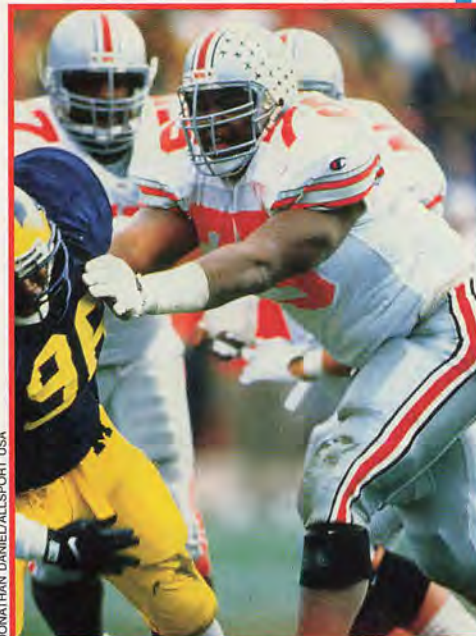
As a result, Cooper, who was on the brink of being run out of Columbus late in the 1994 season before winning a contract extension, again finds himself the subject of scrutiny. Couple the Buckeyes' disappointing finish with the loss of four offensive stars—Heisman Trophy-winning tailback Eddie George, quarterback Bobby Hoving, dazzling wideout Terry Glenn and tight end Ricky Dudley—and most teams would be in a soul-searching rebuilding phase.

Not Ohio State, which brought in another to-die-for recruiting class and returns six starters on offense and 10 on defense.

"You're only as good as your last game," said Ohio State's 6-foot-4, 285-pound senior center Juan Porter. "We lost the final game in 1994 [to Alabama in the Citrus Bowl], and that gave us a bad taste which served as our encouragement during the winter. This year, it's going to be the same thing."

OFFENSE: The Buckeyes ranked sixth nationally in scoring (38.4 points per game) and fifth in total offense (490.6 yards per game) last season behind George and Co.

The heir apparent to George is junior Pepe Pearson, who rushed for 384 yards (4.7 yards per carry) in mop-up duty last fall. The key changeover comes at quarterback, where a four-man derby will be contested among Stanley Jackson (last year's backup), Tom Hoving (Bobby's brother) and junior-college transfers Mark Garcia and Joe Jermaine. Whoever wins the job has at



ORLANDO PACE-OT

least one reliable target in senior receiver Buster Tillman (29 catches, 531 yards).

Most importantly, junior all-universe offensive tackle Orlando Pace (6-6, 320) returns to anchor a gigantic, veteran offensive line which will smooth the skill-position changeovers.

DEFENSE: Ten of 11 starters return, but that presents a good news-bad news situation. The defense took some heat a year ago, particularly after the 31-23 debacle in Ann Arbor where Tim Biakabutuka steamrolled the Buckeyes for 313 rushing yards.

The run defense (.145 ypg) ranked sixth in the Big Ten and will improve with virtually everybody back. The front four should dominate with the return of senior bookends Mike Vrabel (12 sacks) and Matt Finkes (15 tackles for loss, four sacks); however, the Buckeyes are looking for more physical play from their linebackers. Senior middle linebacker Greg Bellisari (team-leading 93 tackles) leads that unit. Cornerback Shawn Springs (five interceptions), an All-America candidate, paces a strong secondary.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Springs, who burned Boston College on a 97-yard kickoff return in last year's Kickoff Classic, heads a dangerous return unit. The Buckeyes have also shown big-play capability when it comes to blocking punts (four in 1995).

Punter Brent Bartholomew averaged 36.9 yards per kick last season as a freshman. Senior place-kicker Josh Jackson, a former walk-on, connected on 10 of 15 field-goal attempts last season, but only 4 of 9 from 30 yards and beyond.

RECRUITING: The Buckeyes landed seven blue-chip players, including everybody's high school All America, linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer of Westerville, Ohio. Other recruiting prizes were offensive lineman Jefferson Kelley (6-6, 305) of Cincinnati and running back Nick Goings of Dublin, Ohio. ☐

Herb Gould covers college football for the Chicago Sun-Times.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE			
QB: Stanley Jackson (Jr., 6-1, 203)	Tom Hoving (Jr., 6-4, 221)		
RB: Pepe Pearson (Jr., 5-10, 193)	Jerman Jackson (Jr., 5-11, 198)		
RB: Nicky Sualua (Jr., 5-11, 250)*	Matt Calhoun (Sr., 6-0, 237)		
WR: Buster Tillman (Sr., 6-1, 188)*	Dee Miller (So., 6-1, 190)		
WR: D. Stanley (Sr., 5-10, 181)	Jimmy Redmond (So., 6-0, 165)		
TE: Bob Houser (Sr., 6-4, 240)	D.J. Jones (Sr., 6-4, 250)		
LT: Orlando Pace (Jr., 6-6, 320)*	Dan Gibbons (So., 6-4, 300)		
LG: Brooks Burris (So., 6-6, 295)	Rob Murphy (Fr., 6-5, 252)		
C: Juan Porter (Sr., 6-4, 285)*	Kevin Hyme (Sr., 6-4, 298)		
RG: LeShun Daniels (Sr., 6-2, 285)*	Drew Elford (Fr., 6-4, 277)		
RT: Eric Gohlstein (Jr., 6-3, 295)*	Larry Waldon (Jr., 6-6, 320)		
DEFENSE			
DE: Matt Finkes (Sr., 6-2, 258)*	Jeff Wilson (So., 6-3, 250)		
DT: Winfield Garnett (Jr., 6-6, 325)	John Day (Jr., 6-3, 245)		
NT: Luke Fickell (Sr., 6-4, 260)*	Shane Clark (Sr., 6-2, 270)		
DE: Mike Vrabel (Sr., 6-4, 255)*	John Day (Jr., 6-3, 245)		
LB: Kevin Johnson (Sr., 6-2, 220)*	Jerry Rudzinski (So., 6-1, 220)		
LB: Greg Bellisari (Sr., 6-1, 240)*	Rodell Dupree (Jr., 6-3, 240)		
LB: Ryan Miller (Sr., 6-2, 220)*	Marc Willis (Sr., 6-3, 215)		
CB: Shawn Springs (Jr., 6-0, 185)*	Antoine Winfield (So., 5-9, 178)		
CB: Ty Howard (Sr., 5-9, 181)*	Central McClellan (So., 5-11, 183)		
SS: Anthony Gwinn (Sr., 6-0, 200)*	Damon Moore (So., 5-11, 195)		
FS: Rob Kelly (Sr., 6-2, 200)*	Che' Bryant (So., 6-1, 180)		
SPECIAL TEAMS			
K: Josh Jackson (Sr., 5-11, 173)*	Mike Malfatti (Jr., 6-3, 205)		
P: B. Bartholomew (So., 6-2, 198)*	Mike Malfatti (Jr., 6-3, 205)		

(* denotes returning starter)

PENN STATE



WALLY RICHARDSON-QB

By GORDON JONES

The folks in Happy Valley would like you to believe that the Nittany Lions are at the same point this year as they were entering the 1994 season, when they went 12-0 and nearly won a national championship.

The parallels are inescapable. PSU came from behind to beat Michigan State in its regular-season finale in 1993 and did the same in 1995. The Lions routed one SEC opponent, Tennessee, in the Citrus Bowl two years ago, and ripped another, Auburn, 43-14, in the Outback Bowl this past January.

But it's there that the comparisons end. Unlike 1994, the offense has been gutted—only three starters return—and the defense doesn't appear to be strong enough to make up for the shortcomings on the other side of the ball.

The Lions' hopes for a sixth consecutive New Year's Day Bowl will largely fall on quarterback Wally Richardson, who finished 1995 on a serious uptick. But there are too many question marks everywhere else, and the Lions seem largely dependent on untested players or those returning from injuries. Or a combination of both.

OFFENSE: Richardson had his ups and downs last year, but he was often terrific in the clutch; he engineered fourth-quarter comebacks against Michigan State, Texas Tech, Purdue and Iowa.

But Richardson was overly dependent on wide receiver Bobby Engram, who departed after setting virtually every school pass-catching record. Also gone is Engram's running mate, Freddie Scott, who surprisingly opted early for the NFL Draft. That leaves a group of receivers that accounted for just 45 catches among them, led by tight end Keith Olsommer (23 catches, 197 yards) and wideout Joe Jurevicius (15.3 yards per catch).

Of course, the Lions' bread and butter remains the running game. Curtis Enis showed flashes of stardom a year ago as a freshman, running with

speed and power (6.0 yards per carry). But who blocks for Richardson, Enis and Co.? Last year's offensive line was together for three years, and the newcomers have seen little time as a unit.

DEFENSE: The Lions finished in the middle of the Big Ten statistical pack, and their work inside their own 20—once a point of pride at PSU—was surprisingly shoddy. Opponents scored on 30 of their 31 trips into the red zone, 21 of those touchdowns.

A change from smaller, quicker defenders to bigger, stronger ones appears to be in the works. Floyd Wedderburn, a 328-pound tackle, and Brandon Short, a 246-pound middle linebacker, are almost certain impact players for the Lions. The question is when? Wedderburn sat out his freshman year because of Prop 48 and missed 1995 with a knee injury. Short broke his left foot and was redshirted last season, then re-injured the same foot in a pick-up basketball game over the winter.

The Lions would also welcome a return to health by strong safety Jason Collins, who broke his leg last season. And the pass rush needs some help. Ends Terry Killens and Todd Atkins accounted for half of the team's 38 sacks, but both are gone. The pass rush suffered another blow when returning starter Brad Scioli (42 tackles) tore the ACL in his right knee during spring drills.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Brett Conway led the conference in kick scoring and his kickoffs consistently reach the end zone. Darrell Kania ranked near the bottom of the Big Ten in punting, but the job is his by default.

RECRUITING: PSU's recruiting class, ranked No. 1 in the country by some experts, is headed by line-backer Courtney Brown, the South Carolina Player of the Year, and wide receiver Titcus Pettigrew, the big-play wideout from Clemmons, N.C. But the most important recruit might be New Jersey Player of the Year Rashard Casey, an athletic 6-4 quarterback from Hoboken who has drawn many comparisons to former Nebraska QB Tommie Frazier.

Gordon Jones is a staff writer for the Lancaster (Pa.) Intelligencer Journal.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Wally Richardson (Sr., 6-4, 222)*	Mike McQueary (Jr., 6-4, 215)
TB: Curtis Enis (So., 6-1, 231)	Chris Eberly (So., 5-11, 202)
FB: Jason Sload (Jr., 6-2, 240)	Aaron Harris (Fr., 5-11, 220)
WR: Joe Jurevicius (Jr., 6-5, 223)	Joe Nastasi (So., 5-11, 182)
WR: Chris Campbell (Sr., 6-0, 199)	Corey Jones (Fr., 5-10, 163)
TE: Keith Olsommer (Sr., 6-4, 248)*	Bob Stephenson (Jr., 6-2, 235)
LT: Jason Henderson (Sr., 6-7, 278)	Dan Drogan (So., 6-7, 284)
LG: Ryan Fagan (So., 6-7, 282)	Kevin Conlin (Jr., 6-3, 266)
C: Barry Tielsch (Sr., 6-2, 290)*	Brad Jones (Jr., 6-6, 264)
RG: Phil Ostrowski (Jr., 6-4, 270)	Bill Anderson (Sr., 6-3, 287)
RT: Pete Marczyk (Sr., 6-3, 287)	Dan Drogan (So., 6-7, 284)

DEFENSE

DE: Jason Gallucci (Jr., 6-0, 244)	Anthony Cleary (So., 6-1, 249)
DT: Mike Buzin (So., 6-3, 254)	F. Wedderburn (So., 6-5, 328)
DT: Brandon Noble (Sr., 6-2, 270)*	Matt Fornadel (Jr., 6-2, 252)
DE: Chris Snyder (Jr., 6-3, 254)	Freddie Valse (Sr., 6-1, 220)
LB: Aaron Collins (Jr., 6-0, 233)*	D. Oswald (So., 6-2, 225)
LB: Gerald Filardi (Sr., 6-0, 236)*	Brandon Short (Fr., 6-3, 246)
LB: Jim Nelson (Sr., 6-2, 226)*	Ahmad Collins (Jr., 6-0, 215)
CB: Brian Miller (Sr., 5-9, 186)*	Brad Johnson (So., 5-8, 165)
CB: Mark Tate (Sr., 6-0, 177)*	Shino Prater (Jr., 5-9, 160)
FS: Kim Herring (Sr., 6-0, 196)*	Shawn Lee (So., 5-7, 173)
SS: Chuck Penzenik (Sr., 5-10, 180)*	Jason Collins (Sr., 5-11, 185)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Brett Conway (Sr., 6-2, 188)*	Brandon Parmer (So., 5-11, 186)
P: Darrell Kania (Sr., 6-0, 180)*	Pat Pidgeon (Fr., 5-10, 180)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Joe Paterno, 31st year, 278-72-3

1995 RECORD: 9-3 (5-3 conf.)

FINAL RANKINGS: No. 13 AP, No. 12 USA

Today/CNN

HOME STADIUM: Beaver Stadium, University Park, Pa. (93,967; grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 13 (3 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Jeff Hartings, OG (1st-team All America); Bobby Engram, WR (3rd-team All America); Terry Killens, DE (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Keith Conlin, OT (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Andre Johnson, OT (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Freddie Scott, WR (declared early for NFL draft)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Wally Richardson, Sr., 193-335-2,198

yards, 18 TDs, 6 INTs

RUSHING: Curtis Enis, Soph., 113 carries, 683

yards, 4 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Keith Olsommer, Sr., 23

RECEIVING (YARDS): Joe Jurevicius, Jr., 199

TACKLES: Gerald Filardi, Sr., 112

SACKS: Brandon Noble, Sr., 4

INTERCEPTIONS: Brian Miller, Sr., 5

PUNTING: Darrell Kania, Sr., 37.4 avg

KICKING: Brett Conway, Sr., 16-24 FGs (long 52),

37-37 PATs

SCORING: Conway, 85 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 25 .vs. USC (Kickoff Classic)*

Sept. 7 .LOUISVILLE

Sept. 14 .NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Sept. 21 .vs. Temple*

Sept. 28 .at Wisconsin

Oct. 5 .at Ohio State

Oct. 12 .PURDUE (HC)

Oct. 19 .IOWA

Oct. 26 .at Indiana

Nov. 2 .NORTHWESTERN

Nov. 16 .at Michigan

Nov. 23 .MICHIGAN STATE

*at E. Rutherford, N.J.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 9 .TEXAS TECH; W, 24-23

Sept. 16 .TEMPLE; W, 66-14

Sept. 23 .vs. Rutgers; W, 59-34*

Sept. 30 .WISCONSIN; L, 17-9

Oct. 7 .OHIO STATE; L, 28-25

Oct. 14 .at Purdue; W, 26-23

Oct. 21 .at Iowa; W, 41-27

Oct. 28 .INDIANA; W, 45-21

Nov. 4 .at Northwestern; L, 21-10

Nov. 18 .at Michigan; W, 27-17

Nov. 25 .at Michigan State; W, 24-20

Jan. 1 .vs. Auburn in Outback Bowl; W, 43-14

* at E. Rutherford, N.J.

MILESTONE

■ Head coach Joe Paterno has taken the Lions to 12 different bowl games and is the winningest active bowl coach with a 17-8-1 record.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Rebuilding the offensive line.
- Replacing the standout wide receiver tandem of Bobby Engram and Freddie Scott.
- Upgrading a so-so defense.

BIG TEN



PURDUE

FACTS

COACH: Jim Colletto, 6th year, 17-35-3; 34-72-4 overall
'95 RECORD: 4-6-1 (2-5-1 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Ross-Ade Stadium, Lafayette, Ind. (67,861, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (6 off., 8 def.)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Mike Alstott, FB (3rd-team All America); Rob Deignan, P (Hon. mention All-Big Ten); Brad Bobich, K

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Rick Trefzger, Sr., 123-208-1,521 yards, 6 TDs, 8 INTs
RUSHING: Edwin Watson, Jr., 102 carries, 553 yards, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Brian Alford, Sr., 34, 8 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Alford, 686
TACKLES: Chike Okefor, Jr., 103
SACKS: Okefor, 4
INTERCEPTIONS: Jamel Coleman, Jr., 4
PUNTING: None
KICKING: None
SCORING: Alford, 48 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31...at Michigan State
 Sept. 14...at Notre Dame
 Sept. 21...WEST VIRGINIA
 Sept. 28...NORTH CAROLINA STATE
 Oct. 5...MINNESOTA
 Oct. 10...OHIO STATE (HC)
 Oct. 12...at Penn State
 Oct. 19...OHIO STATE
 Nov. 2...at Wisconsin
 Nov. 9...MICHIGAN
 Nov. 16...at Northwestern
 Nov. 23...INDIANA

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2...at West Virginia; W, 26-24
 Sept. 9...NOTRE DAME; L, 35-28
 Sept. 23...MICHIGAN STATE; T, 35-35
 Sept. 30...BALL STATE; W, 35-13
 Oct. 7...at Minnesota; L, 39-38
 Oct. 14...PENN STATE; L, 26-23
 Oct. 21...at Ohio State; L, 28-0
 Nov. 4...WISCONSIN; W, 38-27
 Nov. 11...at Michigan; L, 5-0
 Nov. 18...NORTHWESTERN; L, 23-8
 Nov. 24...at Indiana; W, 51-14

MILESTONE

■ Over the past two seasons, Purdue has scored nearly 86 percent (73 of 85) of the time it has entered the red zone (inside the 20).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Marked improvement on defense; the kind they showed over the last three games in '95.
- Continued dominance of the running game.
- Avoid injuries that could quickly decimate the thin Boilermakers.

By JEFF RILEY

Purdue's offense sparks plenty of conversation for Boilermakers fans, but it seems talk always turns toward their defense. Even last season, when Purdue showed marked improvement, there was no escaping the facts. The Boilermakers, who played the nation's fourth-toughest schedule last season and lost four games by a total of 16 points, were a few defensive stops away from their first bowl game since 1984.

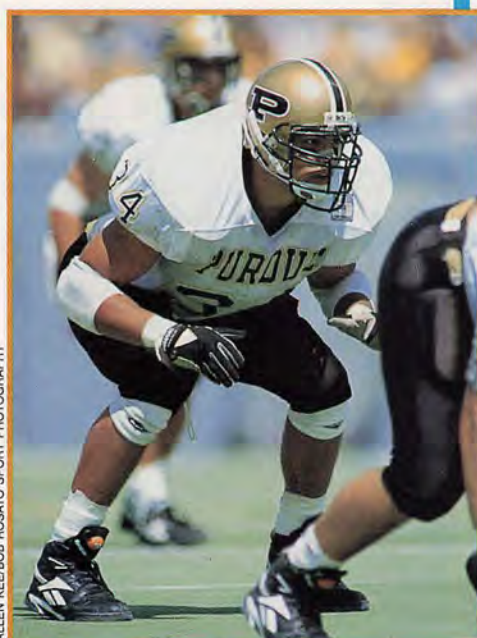
Three games—losses to Notre Dame and lowly Minnesota and a tie with Michigan State—embodied Purdue football of recent lore: A stellar offense that puts up nearly 34 points and 524 yards a game is undercut by a porous defense that gives up 36 and 495.

This season, when talk should center on how Purdue will recover from the loss of All-America fullback Mike Alstott, it no doubt will end up getting defensive. That's because Purdue has plenty of young talent in its backfield to help fill Alstott's void. And yardage seldom is a problem under offensive guru Jim Colletto, whose Boilermakers led the Big Ten in rushing last season and finished eighth in the nation.

"We played really well in our last few games," Colletto said of his defense, which held its final three opponents to an average of 14 points and 326 yards. "If we pick up from that and continue along those same lines, we'll be in good shape. We're going in the right direction."

OFFENSE: It's 1996 A.D. all right—after Alstott's Departure. The Boilermakers will waste no time proving there is life after Alstott, however, thanks to a deep pool of running backs. Junior Edwin Watson, who averaged 5.4 yards a carry last season, will compete with senior Kendall Matthews and juniors Lee Johnson and Curtis Taylor at fullback. The losers will likely move to tailback.

"We have enough backs," Colletto said. "We'll play differently than we did with Mike, though. We're probably not going to run 70 percent of the



CHIKE OKEFOR-LB

time on first down like we've done in the past."

That puts the onus on the left arm of senior quarterback Rick Trefzger (123-of-208 passing, 1,521 yards, 6 TDs), who will be pressed by senior Billy Dicken and junior John Reeves. Returning starters Emmett Zitelli (6-foot-3, 295 pounds), John Hoogendoorn (6-5, 300) and Mark Fischer (6-4, 284), an All-Big Ten honorable mention selection last season, pave the way.

DEFENSE: Junior Chike Okefor (6-5, 237), a Butkus Award candidate, could be the best linebacker in the conference. And, for the first time in Colletto's tenure, Purdue's entire starting secondary returns, led by honorable mention All-Big Ten corner Derrick Winston. Seniors Jon Krick (6-2, 280), Greg Smith (6-3, 280) and Craig Williams (6-4, 250) spearhead the Boilermakers up front.

"I think we can make up for the loss of three starters with the fact we're a lot quicker on defense this year," Colletto said.

SPECIAL TEAMS: The departures of kicker Brad Bobich and punter Rob Deignan forces the Boilermakers to employ first-year specialists. Junior Chris Arnce, a transfer from Southwest (Calif.) Junior College, assumes the kicking duties, while freshman Danny Rogers, who averaged 41.0 yards a punt as a senior at Cypress Lake High in Sanibel, Fla., handles the punting chores.

RECRUITING: It is hailed as perhaps the finest recruiting class in his six-year tenure, but Colletto knows better than to believe the hype at this point. "They all look good when they get off the bus," he said.

Yet Purdue's class earned recognition by several national magazines, thanks in part to athletes such as fullback Cullen Bryant Jr. of Houston High in Cordova, Tenn., and Indianapolis-based receivers Donald Winston of Secцина High and Ron Mason of Warren Central High.

Jeff Riley is a free-lance writer based in Indianapolis.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE			
QB: Ricky Trefzger (Sr., 6-2, 210)*	Billy Dicken (Sr., 6-2, 202)		
RB: Lee Johnson (Jr., 6-0, 207)	Kendall Matthews (Sr., 6-0, 207)		
RB: Edwin Watson (Jr., 6-0, 215)*	Kevin Sellers (Sr., 5-9, 225)		
WR: Kirk Olivadotti (Sr., 5-10, 182)	Brian Alford (Sr., 6-2, 188)*		
WR: Isaac Jones (Jr., 6-0, 188)	Willie Tillman (Jr., 6-0, 180)		
TE: Jon Blackman (Sr., 6-6, 260)	Brandon Jewell (Sr., 6-2, 256)		
LT: Mark Fischer (Sr., 6-4, 284)*	Dan Maly (Sr., 6-6, 284)		
LG: Damon Lewis (Sr., 6-2, 350)	Wayne Finchem (So., 6-4, 290)		
C: Brian Nicley (Sr., 6-6, 275)	Jim Niedrach (So., 6-3, 270)		
RG: Emmett Zitelli (Sr., 6-3, 295)*	Mark Bigonger (Sr., 6-4, 295)		
RT: J. Hoogendoorn (Sr., 6-5, 300)*	Chad Manning (Sr., 6-5, 305)		

DEFENSE			
DE: Roosevelt Colvin (So., 6-3, 235)	Chuckie Nwokorie (So., 6-3, 245)		
DT: Jon Krick (Sr., 6-2, 280)*	Leo Perez (Sr., 6-3, 285)		
DT: Greg Smith (Sr., 6-3, 280)*	Anthony Gutwein (Jr., 6-1, 275)		
DE: Craig Williams (Sr., 6-4, 250)*	Chris Zurba (Jr., 6-2, 230)		
LB: Chike Okefor (Jr., 6-5, 237)*	Chris Koeppen (Sr., 5-11, 216)		
LB: Wayne Francis (Sr., 6-1, 210)	Doug Withers (So., 6-2, 230)		
LB: Joe Haggins (Sr., 6-0, 205)	Willie Fells (So., 6-1, 205)		
CB: Derrick Winston (Sr., 6-0, 172)*	Tommy Triplett (Jr., 5-11, 170)		
CB: Jamel Coleman (Jr., 6-0, 192)*	David Collins (Jr., 5-8, 175)		
SS: W. Burroughs (Jr., 5-10, 193)*	Adrian Beasley (So., 6-0, 190)		
FS: Derrick Brown (Jr., 5-10, 180)*	Lee Brush (Jr., 5-10, 190)		

SPECIAL TEAMS			
K: Chris Arnce (Jr., 5-11, 175)	Shane Ryan (Jr., 5-8, 160)		
P: Danny Rogers (Fr., 5-10, 193)	Brandon Kaser (Jr., 6-1, 175)		
(* denotes returning starter)			

WISCONSIN



CARL McCULLOUGH-RB

By BRENDAN HEALEY

After taking consecutive trips to January bowls, Wisconsin stumbled to a 4-5-2 record last year, but 18 returning starters could have the Badgers bowling once again.

Coach Barry Alvarez's name seems to come up every year in connection with NFL coaching jobs, but the word around Madison is that he comes into this season with renewed energy and a sense of purpose about putting the Badgers back in the Big Ten hunt.

The ground-pounding running style that Alvarez has developed in his years at Wisconsin should be strong as ever, and a veteran defense has to be more physical.

OFFENSE: For the first time in five years, Wisconsin fans will see a new starter at quarterback. Four-year starter Darrell Bevell graduated, and offensive coordinator Brad Childress can pick among a number of candidates.

"The guy with a leg up right now is Mike Samuel," Childress said. "He's a more athletic guy than Darrell was." Redshirt freshmen Mark Zanders and Marcus White, as well as true freshman Scott Kavanagh, are also in the mix. The starter will not be set until fall.

Long-striding running back Carl McCullough gained 1,038 yards last year as a sophomore, and his backup, sophomore Aaron Stecker, had a pair of 100-yard games. The offensive line features five fifth-year senior starters, and, with an average size of 6-5, 302, the members of this unit look like they have never seen a bratwurst they didn't like. Senior right guard James Darby is the "little guy" of the bunch at 6-foot-5, 288 pounds, and senior right tackle Jerry Wunsch (6-6, 315) is the best of the group. Redshirt freshman Chris McIntosh (6-7, 305) could crack the lineup.

Junior Tony Simmons moves to flanker and has

15 touchdowns among his 51 career receptions.

DEFENSE: Senior defensive end Tarek Saleh (6-3, 236) and senior linebacker Pete Monty (6-2, 241) lead the defense. With 12 sacks and 23 tackles for loss, Saleh tied for the Big Ten lead in both categories, and he set a school record for sacks. "He's got a great motor," Wisconsin Defensive Coordinator Kevin Cosgrove said. "He just keeps on coming after you. He never lets up."

Monty led the conference in tackles (137) last season. Senior defensive end Bryan Jurewicz (6-5, 275) anchors the line opposite Saleh, and all four starters return in the secondary.

Although Wisconsin brings back eight defensive starters, several opponents bulldozed the Badger run defense. Wisconsin gave up 200-plus rushing yards against six teams and surrendered a whopping 395 to Purdue.

"Just because you have all the starters back doesn't mean you'll be a great defensive football team," Cosgrove said.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Senior kicker John Hall booted a 60-yard field goal last season, but he has a .500 career average on field-goal attempts. Senior punter Brian Alexander averaged 36.3 yards per kick. Stecker had a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown and picked up 24.2 yards per run back, second-best in the Big Ten.

RECRUITING: Running back Ron Dayne (5-10, 250) from Pine Hill (N.J.) Overbrook leads a 25-player class. A first-team All-USA Today pick, Dayne is a powerful runner who could contribute immediately. Offensive lineman Joe Gribowski (6-6, 290) from D.C. Everest High in Mosinee, Wisconsin, was one of the top recruits in the state and a second-team All-America choice.

Wisconsin put up a wall around the top in-state recruits when it also landed tight end Mike Solwold of Hartland Arrowhead and linebacker Chris Ghidorzi (6-3, 230) of Wausau West.

Brendan Healey is a free-lance writer based in New York City.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Mike Samuel (So., 6-3, 210)	Mark Zanders (Fr., 6-4, 231)
RB: Carl McCullough (Jr., 6-3, 225)*	Aaron Stecker (So., 5-9, 196)
RB: Cecil Martin (So., 6-2, 229)*	Ron Dayne (Fr., 5-10, 250)
WR: Tony Simmons (Jr., 6-2, 201)*	Ahmad Merritt (Fr., 5-10, 190)
WR: Donald Hayes (Jr., 6-5, 207)	D. Brown (Fr., 6-3, 202)
TE: Ryan Sondrup (So., 6-5, 242)	Kevin Lyles (Sr., 6-4, 263)
LT: Cayetano Castro (Sr., 6-6, 310)*	Chris McIntosh (Fr., 6-7, 305)
LG: J. Vanderveldt (Sr., 6-5, 305)*	Chris Paulik (Jr., 6-0, 304)
C: Mike Rader (Sr., 6-5, 294)*	Al Gay (Sr., 6-4, 284)
RG: James Darby (Sr., 6-5, 288)*	Derek Engler (Sr., 6-5, 293)
RT: Jerry Wunsch (Sr., 6-6, 315)*	Pat Daley (Fr., 6-5, 311)

DEFENSE

DE: Tarek Saleh (Sr., 6-3, 236)*	A. Commander (Sr., 6-2, 251)
DT: Neil Miklusak (Sr., 6-3, 275)	Tom Burke (So., 6-4, 253)
DT: Rod Spiller (Sr., 6-4, 274)	B. Williams (So., 6-4, 280)
DE: Bryan Jurewicz (Sr., 6-5, 275)*	Rob Roell (Fr., 6-5, 259)
LB: Daryl Carter (Sr., 6-2, 218)*	Pete Diatelevi (Sr., 6-2, 240)
LB: Pete Monty (Sr., 6-2, 241)*	Brian Flanagan (Jr., 6-2, 227)
LB: David Lysek (Jr., 6-2, 231)	Donny Eicher (So., 6-3, 240)
CB: Cyril Weems (Sr., 6-2, 205)*	Trey Miller (Fr., 6-1, 190)
CB: Jason Suttle (Jr., 5-11, 181)*	LaMar Campbell (Jr., 5-11, 166)
SS: Leonard Taylor (So., 6-0, 186)*	Bob Adamov (Sr., 6-0, 209)
FS: Kevin Huntley (Jr., 6-2, 202)*	Damon Glenn (Jr., 5-10, 183)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: John Hall (Sr., 6-3, 231)*	Dana Nielsen (So., 6-0, 193)
P: Brian Alexander (Sr., 6-3, 198)*	John Hall (Sr., 6-3, 231)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Barry Alvarez, 7th year, 32-32-4

'95 RECORD: 4-5-2 (3-4-1 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Camp Randall Stadium, Madison, Wis. (76,129, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 18 (8 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Jason Maniecki, DL (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Eric Unverzagt, LB (Hon. mention All-Big Ten); Darrell Bevell, QB; Michael London, WR

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Mike Samuel, Soph., 11-31-166 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT

RUSHING: Carl McCullough, Jr., 236 carries, 1,038 yards, 3 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Tony Simmons, Jr., 29, 7 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Simmons, 504

TACKLES: Pete Monty, Sr., 137

SACKS: Tarek Saleh, Sr., 12

INTERCEPTIONS: Kevin Huntley, Jr., 4

PUNTING: Brian Alexander, Sr., 36.3 avg.

KICKING: John Hall, Sr., 7-14 FGs (long 60), 27-29

PATs

SCORING: Hall, 48 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	at EASTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 14	at UNLV
Sept. 21	STANFORD
Sept. 28	PENN STATE
Oct. 12	at Ohio State
Oct. 19	at NORTHWESTERN (HC)
Oct. 26	at Michigan State
Nov. 2	at PURDUE
Nov. 9	at MINNESOTA
Nov. 16	at Iowa
Nov. 23	at Illinois
Nov. 30	at Hawaii

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	at COLORADO; L, 43-7
Sept. 16	at Stanford; T, 24-24
Sept. 23	SMU; W, 42-0
Sept. 30	at Penn State; W, 17-9
Oct. 14	at OHIO STATE; L, 27-16
Oct. 21	at Northwestern; L, 35-0
Oct. 28	at MICHIGAN STATE; W, 45-14
Nov. 4	at Purdue; L, 38-27
Nov. 11	at Minnesota; W, 34-27
Nov. 18	at IOWA; L, 33-20
Nov. 25	at ILLINOIS; T, 3-3

MILESTONES

- Tarek Saleh needs 22 tackles for loss to become the school's career leader.
- Only a junior, WR Tony Simmons needs 1,102 yards to become Wisconsin's all-time receiving leader.
- Simmons needs five TD receptions to become the school's all-time leader in that category.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Replace Darrell Bevell at quarterback.
- Stop the run.
- Survive midseason string of five straight games against teams that played in bowls last season.

1 Big 12

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

KOY DETMER, QB, COLORADO

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

JARED TOMICH, DE, NEBRASKA

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR:

SCOTT FROST, QB, NEBRASKA

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

NORTH	SOUTH
1. NEBRASKA	1. TEXAS
2. COLORADO	2. TEXAS A&M
3. KANSAS	3. TEXAS TECH
4. KANSAS STATE	4. BAYLOR
5. IOWA STATE	5. OKLAHOMA STATE
6. MISSOURI	6. OKLAHOMA

CANTY AT HOME IN BIG 12

At first, it's hard to tell who is more excited about Kansas State's move to the Big 12—K-State All-America cornerback Chris Canty, his mother Sylvia or his big brother Charles.

But the more you talk to them, the more obvious it becomes that Charles is clearly the most fired up—for several reasons, perhaps the biggest being the life expectancy of his car. Texas A&M's Kyle Field is a mere 30 minutes from Charles' Huntsville, Texas, home. Rice is an hour. Sylvia Canty, who was recently diagnosed with cancer, is also within 90 minutes of both Texas schools.

"You have no idea how pumped up I am for the A&M and Rice games," Charles said. "We used to drive 12, 13 hours to watch him play last year. Those kind of trips really beat

you and your car up. This year, he'll be able to put on a show in front of the homefolks."

If his performances in 1995 are any indication, Chris Canty's fans are in for quite a show. The 5-foot-10, 190-pound Canty was a consensus 1995 All-America as a sophomore, tying for the national lead for interceptions with eight—including two returned for touchdowns.

Said former KSU defensive coordinator Bob Stoops: "Chris is almost in a class by himself as far as players I have coached."

Which is saying something because Stoops, who now holds the same position at Florida, coached current New York Giants starting cornerback Thomas Randolph at Kansas State. In fact, Canty was redshirting when Randolph was a star with the Wildcats. The two still keep in touch.

"I talk to him occasionally about the techniques that NFL guys use," Canty said. "I want to get better as a coverage guy so I can play in the NFL. That's my dream."

Canty admitted that he gave some thought to chasing that dream this fall—until his mother let him know who was the boss. "I think Chris was thinking about leaving school early because I was sick," Sylvia Canty said. "But I told him there was no way. I raised my boys to go to college, get their degrees and become role models in the black community."

Her two sons are off to a good start. Charles is a probation officer in the STAR (Specialized Treatment and Rehabilitation) program, which attempts to rehabilitate juveniles who have committed Class B or lower misdemeanors. Chris, himself a Criminal Justice major at Kansas State, has come down on several occasions to speak with the youngsters about the importance of getting an education. The cornerback's speeches have been, if you'll pardon the expression, a big hit.

"The kids down here love him," Charles said. "Here's a guy who was one of the top cornerbacks in college football last year and he's telling them to stay in school, when he could have left early himself. The message really hit home." ☺

—Bill Doherty



A Jim Thorpe Award finalist, Chris Canty was one of the main cogs in a Kansas State unit which led the nation in total defense (250.8 ypg.).

All-Big 12 Team

OFFENSE				
POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
QB	Koy Detmer	Sr.	6-1/180	COLORADO
RB	Troy Davis	Jr.	5-8/182	IOWA STATE
RB	Ahman Green	Soph.	6-0/210	NEBRASKA
WR	Rae Carruth	Sr.	6-0/180	COLORADO
WR	Mike Adams	Sr.	6-1/185	TEXAS
TE	Stephen Alexander	Jr.	6-5/225	OKLAHOMA
OL	Chris Naeole	Sr.	6-4/280	COLORADO
OL	Dan Neil	Sr.	6-2/285	TEXAS
OL	Chris Dishman	Sr.	6-3/310	NEBRASKA
OL	Calvin Collins	Sr.	6-3/290	TEXAS A&M
OL	Aaron Taylor	Jr.	6-1/305	NEBRASKA

DEFENSE				
POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
DL	Jared Tomich	Sr.	6-2/260	NEBRASKA
DL	Brandon Mitchell	Sr.	6-4/275	TEXAS A&M
DL	Chris Akins	Jr.	6-1/292	TEXAS
DL	Grant Wistrom	Jr.	6-2/250	NEBRASKA
LB	Terrell Farley	Sr.	6-1/205	NEBRASKA
LB	Matt Russell	Sr.	6-2/235	COLORADO
LB	Tyrell Peters	Sr.	6-1/218	OKLAHOMA
DB	Bryant Westbrook	Sr.	6-0/197	TEXAS
DB	Chris Canty	Jr.	5-10/190	KANSAS STATE
DB	Donovan Greer	Sr.	5-10/178	TEXAS A&M
DB	Taje Allen	Sr.	5-11/180	TEXAS

SPECIAL TEAMS				
POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
PK	Jeremy Alexander	Jr.	5-11/175	OKLAHOMA
P	Marc Harris	Sr.	5-11/197	IOWA STATE
RS	R.W. McQuarters	Soph.	5-11/185	OKLAHOMA STATE

3 BIGGEST GAMES

1. TEXAS AT COLORADO, OCT. 26: FORMER SWC POWER + FORMER BIG EIGHT POWER = YOUR TYPICAL BIG 12 GAME. THIS ONE JUST STANDS OUT A LITTLE MORE THAN THE REST.

2. COLORADO AT NEBRASKA, NOV. 28: THE BUFFS PROVED TO BE ONE OF NEBRASKA'S TOUGHEST FOES LAST SEASON AND STILL LOST BY 23 POINTS.

3. TEXAS A&M AT TEXAS, NOV. 29: COULD DECIDE THE BIG 12 SOUTH DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP AND, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, CLINCH A DATE WITH NEBRASKA IN THE LEAGUE TITLE GAME.



BUYING & SELLING

We buy and sell pre-1989 Super Bowl and college bowl programs, college and NFL game day programs, college and Super Bowl ticket stubs! Also, STREET & SMITH's annuals, guides and autographed baseballs. Plus, baseball yearbooks, World Series and All-Star game programs. Don't forget to ask about our large selection of sports publications and programs in stock—available for sale!

Catalog \$2.95 1st class postage included.

LOU MADDEN

15875 GREENWAY-HAYDEN LOOP • SUITE 112, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85260

1-800-345-7474

**WHO ARE THE NATION'S TOP BLUE CHIPPERS?
WHO SIGNED WHERE? WHO HAS YET TO SIGN?**

GET ALL THE LATEST NEWS BY CALLING THE

**COLLEGE
SPORTS**

RECRUITING HOTLINE

**CALL
NOW!**

ACCESSIBLE
BY TOUCHTONE OR
ROTARY PHONE

HOOPS RECRUITING HOTLINE 1-900-896-8600

FOOTBALL RECRUITING HOTLINE 1-900-896-4800

ONLY \$1.59 PER MINUTE!

A SERVICE OF **COLLEGE SPORTS**

One Salem Square, Suite 201 East, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

CALLERS UNDER AGE 18 MUST HAVE PERMISSION TO CALL



COLORADO

FACTS

COACH: Rick Neuheisel, 2nd year, 10-2
'95 RECORD: 10-2 (5-2 Big Eight)
FINAL RANKINGS: No. 5 AP, No. 4 USA Today/CNN
HOME STADIUM: Folsom Field, Boulder, Colo. (51,748, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 18 (10 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Heath Irwin, OL (1st-team All America); Bryan Stoltzberg, OL (3rd-team All America); Neil Voskeritchian, K (1st-team All-Big Eight); Kerry Hicks, DL (1st-team All-Big Eight)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: John Hessler, Jr., 154-266-2,136 yards, 20 TDs, 9 INTs
RUSHING: Herchell Troutman, Jr., 171 carries, 826 yards, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Rae Carruth, Sr., 53, 9 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Carruth, 1,008
TACKLES: Matt Russell, Sr., 119
SACKS: Greg Jones, Sr., 8
INTERCEPTIONS: Toray Elton Davis, Jr., 3
PUNTING: Andy Mitchell, Jr., 39.8 avg.
KICKING: Jason Lesley, Jr., 1-1 FGs (long 44), 2-2 PATs
SCORING: Carruth, 54 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ... WASHINGTON STATE
 Sept. 7 ... at Colorado State
 Sept. 14 ... MICHIGAN
 Sept. 28 ... at Texas A&M
 Oct. 12 ... OKLAHOMA STATE
 Oct. 19 ... at Kansas
 Oct. 26 ... TEXAS
 Nov. 2 ... at Missouri
 Nov. 9 ... IOWA STATE (HC)
 Nov. 16 ... KANSAS STATE
 Nov. 29 ... at Nebraska

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ... at Wisconsin; W, 43-7
 Sept. 9 ... COLORADO STATE; W, 42-14
 Sept. 16 ... NE LOUISIANA; W, 66-14
 Sept. 23 ... TEXAS A&M; W, 29-21
 Sept. 30 ... at Oklahoma; W, 38-17
 Oct. 7 ... KANSAS; L, 40-24
 Oct. 21 ... at Iowa State; W, 50-28
 Oct. 28 ... NEBRASKA; L, 44-21
 Nov. 4 ... at Oklahoma State; W, 45-32
 Nov. 11 ... MISSOURI; W, 21-0
 Nov. 18 ... at Kansas State; W, 27-17
 Jan. 1 ... vs. Oregon in Cotton Bowl; W, 38-6

MILESTONE

■ WR Rae Carruth needs 1,125 receiving yards to become the all-time leader in school history in that category, surpassing Michael Westbrook (2,548 yards).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

■ A healthy return for quarterback Koy Detmer and cornerback Dalton Simmons.
 ■ Jason Lesley must be a reliable kicker.
 ■ Negotiate one of the nation's toughest schedules—CU's opponents had a .622 winning percentage in '95.

By JONATHAN FEIGEN

For all the attention paid first-year coach Rick Neuheisel's fun-loving style, earning his program the "Camp Rick" nickname, Colorado had a remarkable, overachieving season last year and appears set up for at least a repeat.

Coming off the departure of Heisman winner Rashaan Salaam, quarterback Kordell Stewart, receiver Michael Westbrook and longtime coach Bill McCartney, Neuheisel lost quarterback Koy Detmer to a knee injury and still led the Buffaloes to a 10-2 season and a top-five finish.

And most of the keys to that success will be back, with Detmer scheduled to return to full workouts Aug. 1. Despite Neuheisel's reputation as an offensive-minded young coach—who serves as his own offensive coordinator—Colorado developed an outstanding defense that could be among the nation's best this season.

It must be. The schedule is brutal, pitting the Buffaloes against Michigan and Texas A&M in consecutive games. Colorado also faces Kansas and Texas back-to-back and ends the season at Nebraska.

OFFENSE: John Hessler established a dozen school records as Detmer's replacement, but the Buffaloes still would like Detmer to reclaim his starting position.

Despite playing in only four games, Detmer put up superb numbers, completing 65 of 95 passes for 1,104 yards with eight scoring passes and only two interceptions. All this added up to a 189.4 rating, 11 points better than Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel's final total (an NCAA-record 178.4).

Either way, the Colorado offense is loaded. Herchell Troutman, Lendon Henry and Marlon Barnes are solid running backs, and Rae Carruth, James Kidd, Chris Anderson and Phil Savoy form a spectacular collection of receivers, with Carruth a deep-threat blur. The squad combined for 148 receptions and 2,330 yards in 1995. Add in Troutman, who caught 19 passes for 301 yards, and (continued on page 172)



MARK BRODIE/COLORADO

HERCHELL TROUTMAN-RB

The Black & Gold SPORTSLETTER

1-800-479-8390

COLORADO FOOTBALL & BASKETBALL INFO



Monthly Newsletter
 @ \$31/year, MC & Visa

Individual Issues \$3.75
 Back Issues Available

Recruiting Info/Fax Service

Sports Service and Sporting Goods

Internet Address:

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/dwooley_2
 BUFFALO SPORTS & Services

P.O. Box 7851, Colo. Sprgs, CO. 80933
 Fax: (719) 599-4361

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Koy Detmer (Sr., 6-1, 185)* John Hessler (Jr., 6-2, 195)*
RB: H. Troutman (Jr., 5-7, 180)* Lendon Henry (Jr., 6-0, 190)
WR: Rae Carruth (Sr., 6-0, 180)* Darrin Chiaverini (So., 6-2, 190)
WR: James Kidd (Sr., 5-8, 160)* Chris Anderson (Jr., 6-4, 220)
WR: Phil Savoy (Jr., 6-3, 200)* Robert Toler (Fr., 6-0, 180)
TE: Matt Lepsis (Sr., 6-5, 265)* Tennyson McCarty (Jr., 6-3, 250)
LT: Andrew Welsh (Jr., 6-6, 285) Ben Nichols (Jr., 6-6, 285)
LG: Kyle Smith (Sr., 6-6, 295)* Corey Kish (Fr., 6-4, 275)
C: Adam Reed (So., 6-2, 285) Kris Soden (Sr., 6-4, 275)
RG: Chris Naeole (Sr., 6-4, 280)* Chan Moody (So., 6-5, 270)
RT: M. Thomas (Jr., 6-3, 295)* Matt Jones (Sr., 6-5, 290)

DEFENSE

DE: Greg Jones (Sr., 6-4, 250)* Jeff Nabholz (Sr., 6-5, 250)
DT: Ryan Olson (Jr., 6-2, 255)* Stacy Patterson (Jr., 6-2, 265)
DT: V. Maumau (Jr., 6-2, 290) Aaron Marshall (So., 6-4, 260)
DE: Terrell Cade (So., 6-4, 240) Nick Ziegler (So., 6-5, 240)
LB: Mike Phillips (Jr., 6-4, 225)* Hannibal Navies (So., 6-3, 240)
LB: Matt Russell (Sr., 6-2, 235)* Clifton Peters (So., 6-2, 235)
LB: Ron Merkerson (Jr., 6-3, 235)* Brandon Southard (So., 6-4, 240)
CB: Kenny Wilkins (Sr., 6-3, 210)* Elton Davis (Jr., 5-9, 175)
CB: M. Washington (So., 6-2, 210) Dalton Simmons (Sr., 6-0, 180)
SS: Ryan Black (Jr., 5-10, 180) Maurice Henriques (Sr., 6-1, 205)
FS: Steve Rosga (Sr., 6-1, 210)* Ryan Sutter (Jr., 6-2, 195)

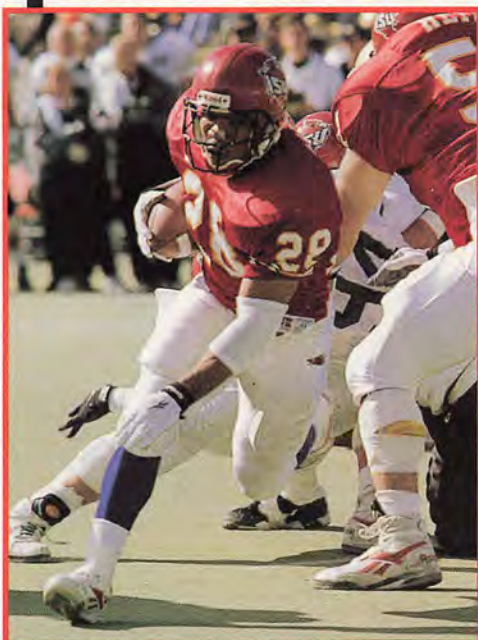
SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Jason Lesley (Jr., 5-8, 165) Matt Slevin (Jr., 6-2, 195)
P: Andy Mitchell (Jr., 6-3, 190)* Jeremy Aldrich (So., 5-10, 165)

(* denotes returning starter)

IOWA STATE

Cyclones



TROY DAVIS-RB

By BOB DUTTON

The most amazing aspect of Troy Davis' 2,010-yard rushing season in 1995 was not that he did it in a conference with some of the nation's top defenses, but that he did it without getting the chance to run against the Cyclones' own atrocious unit.

Iowa State ranked last in the Big Eight in just about every major defensive category despite not having to face Davis. The Cyclones yielded 45 points to Missouri, which scored only 141 combined in its other 10 games.

Still, few teams ever enjoyed a 3-8 season as much as the Cyclones. And Davis was the reason.

"I'm glad I stayed," said Davis, who nearly transferred a year ago after a disappointing freshman season was capped by a coaching change. "I'm glad coach [Dan] McCarney had a talk with me."

Only 5-foot-8 and 190 pounds, Davis became just the fifth player in NCAA Division I-A history to rush for 2,000 yards in a season. He was the first to do it as a sophomore, the first to do it for a losing team and the first to do it and not win the Heisman Trophy.

OFFENSE: Well, there's Davis, who had 2,466 all-purpose yards—an average of 224.2 per game—and 15 touchdowns last season.

"People just want to come over and shake my hand," he said, "and feel how a Heisman candidate feels. People want to come over and just touch me."

Iowa State has its typical massive offensive line, which opponents say truly hides the diminutive Davis. Senior left tackle Tim Kohn, an all-conference candidate, anchors the unit.

Off-injured quarterback Todd Doxzon returns for his senior season. When healthy, Doxzon is a capable passer (58-percent completion rate) who also supplies a legitimate option threat. Sophomore Todd Bandhauer filled in adequately in Doxzon's absence and might win the starting job. At 6-3, he has good size and a strong arm.

With attention focused on Davis, few noticed

that split end Ed Williams caught 46 passes for 639 yards and seven touchdowns as a sophomore.

DEFENSE: Before arriving last year, McCarney spent the previous five seasons as Wisconsin's defensive coordinator and molded units capable of allowing the Badgers to compete for the Big Ten title.

Last year's Cyclones had to disappoint him. Iowa State yielded 3,268 yards on the ground, the most by any team in Division I-A. When opponents wanted to, they could pass on the Cyclones, too, hitting 59 percent while averaging 7.6 yards per attempt.

But juniors Greg Schoon and Rudy Ruffolo return on the line. Senior Tim Sanders and junior Michael Cooper are back at linebacker. And the secondary has veteran cornerbacks in sophomore Dawan Anderson, junior Kevin Hudson, junior strong safety Tracy Williams and a busy free safety in Mike Lincavage (109 tackles, 2 INTs in 1995).

A year's experience can only help but, remember—these are the same guys who didn't stop anybody last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS: The Cyclones always seem to have good kickers, and this year is no exception. Senior punter Marc Harris averaged 41.4 yards last year in 52 attempts, while Jamie Kohl connected on 10 of 17 field-goal attempts as a freshman. Both are all-conference candidates.

Kevin Wilson doubled as top return man for kickoffs and punts but got far more work on kickoffs, averaging 19.3 yards for 23 attempts. Davis also performs kickoff return duty and averaged 24.8 yards on 12 attempts.

RECRUITING: There's a new Davis at Iowa State: Troy's brother, Darren, who as a junior became only the second player to rush for more than 2,000 yards in the prep football hotbed of Dade County, Fla. Troy was the first.

Darren Davis played only four games last year because of an injury but rushed for 747 yards in 113 attempts. Will the Davises be teamed in the same backfield? Probably not right away.

Bob Dutton is a staff writer for the Kansas City Star.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Todd Doxzon (Sr., 6-1, 191)*	Todd Bandhauer (So., 6-3, 234)
RB: Troy Davis (Jr., 5-8, 190)*	Graston Norris (Sr., 5-8, 182)
RB: R. Guggenheim (Sr., 5-10, 228)*	Joe Parmentier (So., 5-11, 250)
WR: Gerrick Bivens (Jr., 5-11, 171)	Jerome Henry (Jr., 6-0, 183)
WR: Ed Williams (Jr., 6-3, 197)*	Tom Radke (Jr., 5-11, 182)
TE: Dennis DiBiase (Sr., 6-2, 245)*	Damian Gibson (So., 6-4, 247)
LT: Tim Kohn (Sr., 6-5, 307)*	Oliver Ross (Sr., 6-5, 286)
LG: Matt Rahfeldt (Jr., 6-3, 274)	Charlie Bogwill (So., 6-2, 286)
C: Dave Augafa (Sr., 6-2, 335)*	Paul Skartvedt (Sr., 6-2, 277)
RG: Doug Easley (Sr., 6-2, 282)*	Eddie Shufford (Jr., 6-0, 271)
RT: Kurt Levetzow (Jr., 6-5, 260)	Chris Brunsvoild (So., 6-3, 309)

DEFENSE

DE: Joe Cominsky (Fr., 6-5, 247)	Jack Mitchell (Fr., 6-4, 248)
DT: Rudy Ruffolo (Jr., 6-3, 268)*	Bill Marsau (Fr., 6-5, 264)
DT: Greg Schoon (Jr., 6-3, 280)*	Terry Thomas (Fr., 6-2, 275)
DE: Chin Achebe (So., 6-1, 246)	Mike Hansen (So., 6-2, 246)
LB: Michael Cooper (Jr., 6-1, 202)*	Brandon Rutledge (Fr., 5-11, 210)
LB: Dave Brcka (Fr., 6-2, 233)	Andre Lee (So., 6-0, 230)
LB: Derrik Clark (Jr., 6-4, 236)	Tim Sanders (Sr., 6-0, 222)*
CB: Kevin Hudson (Jr., 6-0, 175)*	Mike O'Brien (So., 5-11, 190)
CB: Dawan Anderson (So., 5-8, 164)*	Kevin Wilson (So., 5-10, 182)
SS: Tracy Williams (Jr., 6-0, 218)	Kelvin Moore (Sr., 6-1, 207)
FS: Mike Lincavage (Sr., 6-1, 202)*	Jason Brown (Sr., 5-10, 188)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Jamie Kohl (So., 6-0, 187)*	Duke Perfect (Jr., 5-10, 200)
P: Marc Harris (Sr., 5-11, 202)*	Zach Kimble (Fr., 6-2, 174)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Dan McCarney, 2nd year, 3-8

'95 RECORD: 3-8 (1-6 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Cyclone Stadium/Jack Trice Field, Ames, Iowa (50,000, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 17 (8 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Mark Konopka, OL (Hon. mention All-Big Eight); Matt Straight, DB (Hon. mention All-Big Eight)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Todd Doxzon, Sr., 58-100-739 yards,

4 TDs, 4 INTs

RUSHING: Troy Davis, Jr., 345 carries, 2,010 yards, 15 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Ed Williams, Jr., 46, 7 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Williams, 639

TACKLES: Mike Lincavage, Sr., 109

SACKS: Rudy Ruffolo, Jr., 3

INTERCEPTIONS: Lincavage and Dawan Anderson, Soph., 2 each

PUNTING: Marc Harris, Sr., 41.4 avg.

KICKING: Jamie Kohl, Soph., 10-17 FGs (long 47); 26-30 PATs

SCORING: Davis, 96 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	. WYOMING
Sept. 14	. at Iowa
Sept. 21	. NORTHERN IOWA
Sept. 28	. MISSOURI (HC)
Oct. 12	. TEXAS A&M
Oct. 19	. at Oklahoma State
Oct. 26	. at Baylor
Nov. 2	. . KANSAS
Nov. 9	. . at Colorado
Nov. 16	. . NEBRASKA
Nov. 23	. . at Kansas State

1995 RESULTS

Aug. 31	. OHIO; W, 36-21
Sept. 9	. . at TCU; L, 27-10
Sept. 16	. IOWA; L, 27-10
Sept. 23	. UNLV; W, 57-30
Oct. 7	. . OKLAHOMA; L, 39-26
Oct. 14	. . at Kansas; L, 34-7
Oct. 21	. . COLORADO; L, 50-28
Oct. 28	. . OKLAHOMA STATE; W, 38-14
Nov. 4	. . at Nebraska; L, 73-14
Nov. 11	. . KANSAS STATE; L, 49-7
Nov. 18	. . at Missouri; L, 45-31

MILESTONE

■ Troy Davis needs 1,221 yards to become the school's all-time leading rusher, surpassing the mark of 3,437 set by Dexter Green (1975-'78).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Drastic improvement in their run defense.
- Drastic improvement in pass defense.
- Development of a passing game to relieve some of the pressure from Troy Davis.



FACTS

COACH: Glen Mason, 9th year, 43-47-1; 55-57-1 overall
'95 RECORD: 10-2 (5-2 Big Eight)
FINAL RANKINGS: No. 9 AP, No. 10 USA Today/CNN
HOME STADIUM: Memorial Stadium, Lawrence, Kan. (50,250, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 15 (7 off, 7 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Chris Banks, OT (3rd-team All America); Mark Williams, QB; Dorian Brew, DB; Ashaundai Smith, WR; L.T. Levine, RB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Ben Rutz, Sr., 8-19-92 yards, 1 INT
RUSHING: June Henley, Sr., 158 carries, 766 yards, 8 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Isaac Byrd, Sr., 48, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Byrd, 604
TACKLES: Jason Thoren, Jr., 119
SACKS: Dan Dercher, Soph., 4.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Thoren, 3
PUNTING: None
KICKING: Jeff McCord, Jr., 9-12 FGs (long 46), 33-36 PATs
SCORING: McCord, 60 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29 ... BALL STATE
 Sept. 14 ... at TCU
 Sept. 28 ... at Utah
 Oct. 5 ... at Oklahoma
 Oct. 12 ... TEXAS TECH
 Oct. 19 ... COLORADO (HC)
 Oct. 26 ... at Nebraska
 Nov. 2 ... at Iowa State
 Nov. 9 ... KANSAS STATE
 Nov. 16 ... TEXAS
 Nov. 23 ... at Missouri

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ... CINCINNATI; W, 23-18
 Sept. 9 ... at North Texas; W, 27-10
 Sept. 14 ... TCU; W, 38-20
 Sept. 23 ... HOUSTON; W, 20-13
 Oct. 7 ... at Colorado; W, 40-24
 Oct. 14 ... IOWA STATE; W, 34-7
 Oct. 21 ... at Oklahoma; W, 38-17
 Oct. 28 ... at Kansas State; L, 41-7
 Nov. 4 ... MISSOURI; W, 42-23
 Nov. 11 ... NEBRASKA; L, 41-3
 Nov. 18 ... at Oklahoma State; W, 22-17
 Dec. 25 ... vs. UCLA in Aloha Bowl; W, 51-30

MILESTONE

■ June Henley needs 508 rushing yards to become the third player in Kansas history to reach 3,000 in a career—joining Tony Sands (3,788 yards) and Laverne Smith (3,074).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find an adequate replacement for Mark Williams at quarterback.
- Cut down on last year's total of 386.2 ypg. allowed.
- Survive back-to-back games in October against perennial national powers Colorado and Nebraska.

By BOB DUTTON

Only moments after his team destroyed UCLA, 51-30, in the Aloha Bowl, Kansas coach Glen Mason sought to explain why he reversed his recent decision to leave the Jayhawks for the Georgia head job.

"I've got a great feeling for the University of Kansas," he said. "I've got a great feeling for the players. I've got a great feeling for the people I work with."

"I thought, 'Why am I jeopardizing this? Why am I moving on?'"

With that, Mason, having only hours earlier convinced Chancellor Robert Hemenway to give him his old job back, could once again concentrate on building the Jayhawks into a national power—a task started in 1988 when he inherited a team 4-17-1 over its previous two seasons.

The future looks bright, even if Kansas finds itself grouped in the Big 12's North Division with three teams that finished in the top seven in last year's final poll. The Jayhawks return 33 of 44 players from last year's two-deep roster. There are some holes to patch, but there's no reason Kansas can't achieve back-to-back bowl seasons for the first time in school history.

OFFENSE: Who replaces quarterback Mark Williams (61.7 completion percentage, Aloha Bowl MVP) is the big offensive question in Lawrence.

The top candidate is senior Ben Rutz, who saw limited duty last year as a reserve. Once a highly touted recruit at Nebraska, Rutz eventually transferred to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M and led the Golden Norsemen to the junior college championship game. A year ago, Williams was a former JUCO star with little Division I-A experience. Can the Jayhawks hit the jackpot in successive years?

Kansas must also replace wideout Ashaundai Smith, a 5-foot-6 waterbug who caught 41 passes for 550 yards and displayed a knack for big plays. Running back L.T. Levine is also gone, taking with him 841 yards and an average of 5.4 yards per carry.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Ben Rutz (Sr., 6-0, 190) Matt Johnner (Jr., 6-1, 190)
RB: June Henley (Sr., 5-11, 205)* Eric Vann (Jr., 5-9, 190)
RB: Eric Galbreath (Jr., 5-11, 190) Mark Sanders (Sr., 6-0, 215)
WR: Isaac Byrd (Sr., 6-2, 180)* Reggie Moore (Fr., 6-1, 170)
WR: Andre Carter (Sr., 5-10, 165) Chad Coellner (Fr., 6-0, 175)
TE: Jim Moore (Sr., 6-3, 260)* Hosea Friday (Sr., 6-2, 240)
LT: Justin Glasgow (So., 6-6, 295) Derrick Chandler (Jr., 6-7, 305)
LG: Jim Stiebel (Sr., 6-2, 275)* Dameron Hunt (Fr., 6-3, 290)
C: Jared Smith (Sr., 6-1, 265) Jim Stiebel (Sr., 6-2, 275)*
RG: Cleve Roberts (So., 6-6, 290)* Shawn Yang (So., 6-2, 265)
RT: Scott Whitaker (Sr., 6-6, 290)* Rob Wise (Jr., 6-4, 300)

DEFENSE

DT: Dewey Houston III (Jr., 6-4, 255)* Dan Dercher (So., 6-6, 255)
NT: Brett McGraw (Jr., 6-1, 280)* Adrian Greene (So., 6-3, 290)
DT: Kevin Kopp (Sr., 6-4, 260)* J.J. Johnson (So., 6-2, 230)
LB: Patrick Brown (So., 5-10, 200) Lamar Sharpe (Jr., 6-4, 230)
LB: Ronnie Ward (Sr., 6-0, 225) Steve Bratten (So., 6-1, 220)
LB: Jason Thoren (Jr., 6-2, 230)* Ron Warner (Jr., 6-3, 220)
LB: Chris Jones (Sr., 6-2, 235)* J.J. Johnson (So., 6-2, 230)
CB: Jason Harris (Jr., 5-10, 170) Mitch Bowles (Fr., 5-8, 170)
CB: Jamie Harris (So., 5-10, 175)* Manolito Jones (Jr., 5-9, 165)
SS: Maurice Gaddie (Jr., 5-9, 185)* Charles Davis (Jr., 6-0, 200)
FS: Michael Allen (So., 5-10, 190) Tony Blevins (Sr., 6-0, 170)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Jeff McCord (Jr., 5-9, 220)* Pat Johnson (So., 5-9, 160)
P: Dean Royal (Jr., 6-2, 170) Pat Johnson (So., 5-9, 160)

(* denotes returning starter)

KANSAS



JUNE HENLEY-RB

But all isn't bleak. Isaac Byrd, an all-conference candidate at wide receiver, is a 6-2 senior who caught 48 passes for 604 yards last season. The backfield has plenty of talent in senior June Henley (766 yards) and junior Eric Vann (235). The line returns four starters and several top reserves but must replace All-America guard Chris Banks.

DEFENSE: To look at the numbers, the Jayhawks weren't terribly effective in terms of yards allowed, permitting 386.2 a game, a figure ranking ahead of only Oklahoma State and Iowa State in the Big Eight.

"We trust each other," junior linebacker Jason Thoren said. "You're not worrying about what everybody else is doing. You just worry about what you're doing and you make plays."

And the Jayhawks do make plays. Only Kansas State and Nebraska permitted fewer points among conference schools. Youthful a year ago, Kansas returns seven starters and gets the bonus of two 1994 starters returning from season-long injuries—linebacker Ronnie Ward and free safety Tony Blevins.

Kansas could still use a little more interior beef to go with junior nose tackle Brett McGraw (280 pounds) and senior tackle Kevin Kopp (260). Thoren (119 tackles) is an extremely active linebacker.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Some big losses here. Punter Darin Simmons had a powerful leg, averaging 43.8 yards per punt. Junior Jeff McCord hit nine of 12 field-goal attempts, including 2-for-3 from beyond 40 yards. Either sophomore Pat Johnson or JUCO recruit Dean Royal figures to replace Simmons.

RECRUITING: Mason's waffling with Georgia didn't hurt recruiting because they soon knew he was more likely to stay than ever before. But the Jayhawks' class, at first glance, doesn't appear to be anything special—although linebacker Ron Warner, a second-team JUCO All-American at Independence (Kan.) Community College, could start right away.

Bob Dutton is a staff writer for the Kansas City Star.

KANSAS STATE



CHRIS CANTY-CB

ALLEN KEE/BOB ROSATO SPORT PHOTOGRAPHY

By BOB DUTTON

History still haunts Kansas State. Each year, the tendency is to look at the Wildcats' personnel losses and project a return to the program's moribund past.

Tradition dies hard, even a wretched tradition. For all its recent success, Kansas State remains the all-time leader in losses by a Division I-A program.

But the Wildcats are just one of five I-A programs to record at least nine victories in each of the last three years, and that success is paying dividends on the recruiting trail.

"Young people live for today," coach Bill Snyder said. "Yesterday doesn't make any difference."

But it's hard to see the Wildcats matching last year's 10-2 mark, which included a No. 6 ranking in the final *USA Today/CNN* poll. The schedule is tougher, in part because the new Big 12 requires eight conference games. Plus, K-State finds itself grouped in a killer six-team division with perennial powerhouses Nebraska and Colorado, a veteran Kansas team and improving Iowa State with Heisman candidate Troy Davis.

Still, don't be surprised if the Wildcats end the season in a bowl game for the fourth year in a row. **OFFENSE:** Brian Kavanagh replaced an injured Matt Miller in the Holiday Bowl and completed 18 of 24 passes for 242 yards and four touchdowns in the 54-21 romp over Colorado State. Kavanagh, a fifth-year senior who understands Snyder's complex offense, lacks Miller's option and scrambling talents but makes quick reads and accurate throws.

Juniors Eric Hickson and Mike Lawrence combined for 1,415 yards last year in splitting time at tailback.

Senior wideout Kevin Lockett might be the Big 12's best receiver and should end his career as the school leader in receptions and receiving yards. He caught 56 passes for 797 yards and a school-record 11 touchdowns last year.

But Lockett needs help. K-State must replace Mitch Running and Tyson Schwieger (39-438) and steady tight end Brian Lojka. Senior Jimmy Dean and sophomore Brian Jackson are the top wideouts, while junior Jarrett Grosdidier appears to be the team's new tight end.

The line returns three interior starters—junior guard Kendyl Jacox, senior center Jason Johnson and senior guard Ross Greenwood.

DEFENSE: The Wildcats led the nation in total defense last year, allowing just 250.8 yards a game, and ranked second in scoring defense by yielding only 13.2 points a game.

But to approach last year's success, K-State needs to rebuild a line that lost three starters, including tackle Tim Colston, the Big Eight's Defensive Player of the Year, and end Dirk Ochs (11 sacks). Senior end Nyle Wiren, an all-conference candidate, provides a foundation in the retooling process.

The secondary again might be the nation's best. Junior cornerback Chris Canty is an All America and senior Joe Gordon is an all-conference talent on the other side. Senior free safety Mario Smith is a fearsome hitter.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Junior kicker Martin Gramatica returns after making 7 of 10 field goals and 43 of 46 PATs. He still needs to increase his range. Punter James Garcia (41.5 yards on 39 attempts) also returns. Dean and Lawrence are back for kickoff returns, while Canty figures to replace Running as the single safety on punt returns.

RECRUITING: Jonathan Beasley could be the quarterback of the future. He threw for 2,566 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior while directing a no-huddle attack at Glendale (Ariz.) Cactus High. The Wildcats signed two JUCO tackles—Kenneth Bouie (6-1, 280) and Jerome Evans (6-6, 305)—to bolster their depleted defensive line. Bouie was a first-team JUCO All America for 1995 national champion Blinn (Texas) JC. He could soften the loss of Colston.

Bob Dutton is a staff writer for the Kansas City Star.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Brian Kavanagh (Sr., 6-3, 220)	Casey Vidricksen (So., 6-2, 210)
RB: Eric Hickson (Jr., 5-10, 195)*	Mike Lawrence (Jr., 5-10, 190)
RB: Brian Goolsby (Fr., 6-3, 245)	Matt Gangwish (Jr., 5-11, 225)
WR: Jimmy Dean (Sr., 5-10, 190)	Brian Jackson (So., 6-0, 180)
WR: Kevin Lockett (Sr., 6-1, 180)*	J.W. Wight (Jr., 6-3, 200)
TE: Jarrett Grosdidier (Jr., 6-5, 250)	Justin Swift (So., 6-4, 245)
LT: Todd Weiner (Jr., 6-5, 280)	Damian McIntosh (Fr., 6-5, 290)
LG: Ross Greenwood (Sr., 6-4, 300)*	Brian O'Neil (Sr., 6-3, 275)
C: Jason Johnson (Sr., 6-3, 275)*	Toosavili Ulutu (Sr., 6-1, 290)
RG: Kendyl Jacox (Jr., 6-2, 320)*	Jeremy Martin (So., 6-3, 300)
RT: Ryan Young (So., 6-6, 320)	Ian Moses (Fr., 6-3, 290)

DEFENSE

DE: Nyle Wiren (Sr., 6-1, 250)*	Mike Bush (So., 6-3, 230)
DE: Kenneth Bouie (Jr., 6-1, 280)	Andrew Timmons (Sr., 6-3, 280)
DE: Brock Stefan (Sr., 6-3, 285)	Lance Grace (Fr., 6-1, 275)
DE: Thad Swazer (Sr., 6-4, 250)	Darren Howard (Fr., 6-4, 235)
LB: Travis Ochs (So., 6-3, 225)*	Joe Bob Clements (So., 6-3, 225)
LB: DeShawn Fogle (Sr., 6-2, 235)*	Casey Wehrman (Jr., 6-1, 210)
LB: Jabbar Williams (Sr., 6-3, 230)	Turrelle Williams (Fr., 6-2, 220)
CB: Chris Canty (Jr., 5-10, 190)*	Clyde Johnson (Sr., 5-10, 200)
CB: Joe Gordon (Sr., 5-9, 180)*	D. Denmark (Jr., 5-9, 175)
SS: Monty Spiller (Jr., 6-0, 185)	Derek King (So., 5-10, 195)
FS: Mario Smith (Sr., 6-0, 190)*	David Conley (So., 6-2, 200)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Martin Gramatica (Jr., 5-9, 160)*	Scott Collins (Jr., 5-8, 190)
P: James Garcia (So., 6-2, 195)*	Chad Romano (Sr., 6-1, 195)

(* denotes returning starter)



FACTS

COACH: Bill Snyder, 8th year, 46-33-1

'95 RECORD: 10-2 (5-2 conf.)

FINAL RANKINGS: No. 7 AP, No. 6 *USA Today/CNN*
HOME STADIUM: KSU Stadium, Manhattan, Kan.
(42,000, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 13 (5 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Tim Colston, DL (1st-team All-Big Eight); Percell Gaskins, LB (1st-team All-Big Eight); Chuck Marlowe, DB (1st-team All-Big Eight); Chris Oltmanns, OL (2nd-team All-Big Eight); Mitch Running, WR (2nd-team All-Big Eight); Matt Miller, QB (2nd-team All-Big Eight); Dirk Ochs, DL (2nd-team All-Big Eight)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Brian Kavanagh, Sr., 36-58-437 yards,

5 TDs, 1 INT

RUSHING: Eric Hickson, Jr., 158 carries, 816 yards, 8 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Kevin Lockett, Sr., 56, 13 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Lockett, 797

TACKLES: Mario Smith, Sr., 95

SACKS: Nyle Wiren, Sr., 8

INTERCEPTIONS: Chris Canty, Jr., 8

PUNTING: James Garcia, Soph., 41.5 avg.

KICKING: Martin Gramatica, Jr., 7-10 FGs (long 32), 43-46 PATs

SCORING: Lockett, 78 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	..TEXAS TECH
Sept. 7	..INDIANA STATE
Sept. 14	..CINCINNATI
Sept. 21	..at Rice
Oct. 5	..NEBRASKA
Oct. 12	..at Missouri
Oct. 19	..at Texas A&M
Oct. 26	..OKLAHOMA
Nov. 9	..at Kansas
Nov. 16	..at Colorado
Nov. 23	..IOWA STATE (HC)

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	..TEMPLE; W, 34-7
Sept. 9	..at Cincinnati; W, 23-21
Sept. 23	..AKRON; W, 67-0
Sept. 30	..N. ILLINOIS; W, 44-0
Oct. 7	..MISSOURI; W, 30-0
Oct. 14	..at Oklahoma State; W, 23-17
Oct. 21	..at Nebraska; L, 49-25
Oct. 28	..KANSAS; W, 41-7
Nov. 4	..OKLAHOMA; W, 49-10
Nov. 11	..at Iowa State; W, 49-7
Nov. 18	..COLORADO; L, 27-17
Dec. 29	..vs. Colo. St. in Holiday Bowl; W, 54-21

MILESTONE

■ K-State, which is 32-4-1 at home in the 1990s, finished last year with its highest national ranking in school history at No. 6 (*USA Today/CNN*).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Shore up the defensive line.
- Find two offensive tackles to protect the quarterback.
- Get PK Martin Gramatica to add about 10 yards to his field-goal range.

NORTH BIG 12



MISSOURI

FACTS

COACH: Larry Smith, 3rd year, 6-16-1; 116-41-7 overall
'95 RECORD: 3-8 (1-6 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Memorial/Faurot Field, Columbia, Mo. (62,000, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 19 (10 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Steve Martin, DL (2nd-team All-Big Eight); Chris Buck, OL (Hon. mention All-Big Eight)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Kent Skornia, Soph., 22-53-230 yards, 2 TDs, 2 INTs
RUSHING: Brock Olivo, Jr., 232 carries, 985 yards, 6 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Olivo, 17
RECEIVING (YARDS): Bill Lingerfelt, Sr., 202
TACKLES: DeMontie Cross, Sr., 144
SACKS: Justin Wyatt, Soph., 2
INTERCEPTIONS: Clayton Baker, Sr., 4
PUNTING: Jason Smith, Soph., 36.5 avg.
KICKING: Mark Norris, Sr., 8-12 FG (long 41); 17-18 PATs
SCORING: Norris, 41 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...at Texas
 Sept. 14 ...MEMPHIS
 Sept. 21 ...CLEMSON
 Sept. 28 ...at Iowa State
 Oct. 5 ...SMU*
 Oct. 12 ...KANSAS STATE
 Oct. 26 ...OKLAHOMA STATE (HC)
 Nov. 2 ...COLORADO
 Nov. 9 ...at Nebraska
 Nov. 16 ...at Baylor
 Nov. 23 ...KANSAS
 *at Dallas

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...NORTH TEXAS; W, 28-7
 Sept. 9 ...BOWLING GREEN; L, 17-10
 Sept. 16 ...at Texas Tech; L, 41-14
 Sept. 23 ...NE LOUISIANA; W, 31-22
 Oct. 7 ...at Kansas State; L, 30-0
 Oct. 14 ...at Nebraska; L, 57-0
 Oct. 21 ...OKLAHOMA STATE; L, 30-26
 Oct. 28 ...OKLAHOMA; L, 13-9
 Nov. 4 ...at Kansas; L, 42-23
 Nov. 11 ...at Colorado; L, 21-0
 Nov. 18 ...IOWA STATE; W, 45-31

MILESTONES

- Senior All-America candidate DeMontie Cross needs 104 tackles to become the school's all-time leader.
- Brock Olivo needs 55 rushing yards to crack the Tigers' top 10 in career rushing yards.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Tigers must play competitively in Aug. 31 opener at Texas, then win Sept. 14 home opener against Memphis.
- Corby Jones must become a threat as a passer.
- Brock Olivo must stay healthy.

By BOB DUTTON

Look at what geography did to Missouri. The Big 12's decision to divide into two six-team divisions on a North/South basis means the Tigers find themselves grouped with four teams that finished last year in the Top 10 and a fifth school that has a preseason Heisman Trophy favorite.

How would you judge the Tigers' chances for avoiding a 13th straight non-winning season?

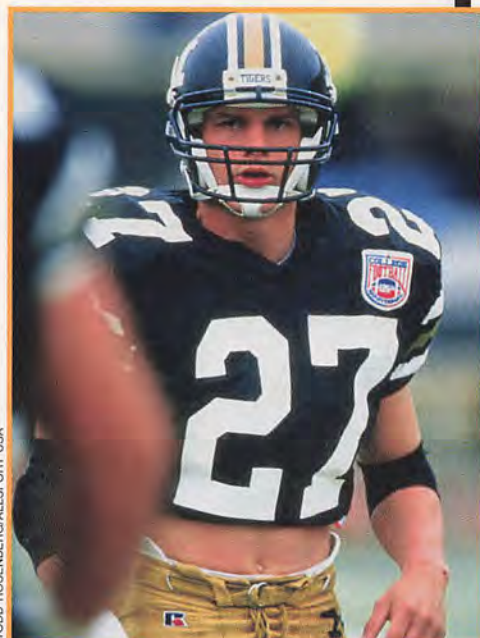
And listen to coach Larry Smith assess last year's team, which only avoided the school's first winless conference record in 24 years by winning the season finale over Iowa State. "We took a big step overall in our program," he said. "There is a will to continue the fight."

A big step at 3-8? The Tigers are in trouble.

Missouri had no offense last year beyond hard-running Brock Olivo, who finished with 985 yards. The Tigers suffered three shutouts and scored 14 or fewer points in three other games. Smith shuffled through four quarterbacks before settling on Corby Jones, who provides a speed threat on the option but no threat as a passer. The defense was better than in recent years but nowhere near good enough to bail out a punchless offense.

OFFENSE: Olivo's 985 rushing yards were the fourth-highest total in school history and the most since Darrell Wallace gained 1,120 in 1985. The junior running back is a tireless worker whose spartan diet and rigorous training regimen sent him into fall practice a year ago with his body fat in the danger zone at 2.2 percent. That prompted a change in diet for a man who contends he needs nothing more than a steady fare of rice. And the change? "I drink two percent milk instead of skim," he said.

The Tigers have high hopes for Jones, who took control of the attack last year when it became evident that Brandon Corso, Kent Skornia and Misael Alvarado weren't the answer. Corso graduated and Alvarado transferred to Abilene Christian. Jones rushed for 368 yards in 78 attempts, a nifty 4.7-yard



BROCK OLIVO-RB

average. But he completed just 14 of 42 attempts for a measly 134 yards. He threw four interceptions and his next touchdown pass will be his first.

"We were kind of caught in transition [last] season," Smith said. "We were caught with some of the old and some of the new. [This year], we're not going to be in an option offense. The option will be one of three weapons: A good base run, a good option and a good pass offense."

DEFENSE: The Tigers forced 24 fumbles last year and recovered 13. They also had 16 interceptions, all because they hit harder than in previous years. There's no reason to believe that trend won't continue since Missouri returns seven defensive starters, including senior linebacker Darryl Chatman and an experienced secondary with cornerbacks Clayton Baker and Shad Criss and free safety DeMontie Cross.

The Tigers have huge holes to fill in the front seven. Departed nose tackle Steve Martin is a major loss, although sophomore Tim Mittelstadt shows signs of becoming an impact player. But Missouri still lacks the pursuit speed necessary to counter the conference's better offenses.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Punter Jason Smith got a workout last year as a freshman, setting a school record with 79 attempts in 11 games. But he only averaged 36.5 yards per kick. Kicker Mark Norris was steady, if not spectacular. The same can also be said of the Tigers' chief returnmen, Baker on punts and Williams on kickoffs.

RECRUITING: Missouri needed immediate help, but five players who at one point offered verbal commitments changed their mind by signing day. Bobby Burton of the *National Recruiting Advisor* assessed the class by saying, "I don't see any signs of Missouri re-establishing itself as a national power any time soon."

Bob Dutton is a staff writer for the Kansas City Star.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Corby Jones (So., 6-1, 216)*
RB: Brock Olivo (Jr., 6-1, 210)*
RB: Ron Jones (Jr., 6-3, 255)
WR: Lou Shepherd (Sr., 6-0, 214)*
WR: Jay Murchison (Jr., 6-1, 188)
TE: Bill Lingerfelt (Sr., 6-4, 249)*
LT: Travis Biebel (Jr., 6-4, 265)*
LG: Mike Morris (Jr., 6-3, 281)*
C: Russ Appel (Sr., 6-3, 255)*
RG: Cliff Smith (So., 6-5, 264)*
RT: Todd Neimeyer (So., 6-5, 277)
DE: Brian Cracraft (Jr., 6-3, 249)*
DT: Jeff Marriott (Fr., 6-5, 262)
NT: Donnell Jones (Jr., 6-4, 266)
DE: Justin Wyatt (So., 6-4, 251)
LB: Ramone Budgetts (So., 6-2, 231)
LB: Joe Love (Sr., 6-2, 220)*
LB: Darryl Chatman (Sr., 6-1, 245)*
CB: Shad Criss (Jr., 5-10, 173)*
CB: Clayton Baker (Sr., 5-10, 176)*
SS: C. Easter (So., 5-10, 186)
FS: DeMontie Cross (Sr., 6-4, 209)*
K: Mark Norris (Sr., 6-2, 186)*
P: Jason Smith (So., 5-9, 168)*

DEFENSE

QB: Kent Skornia (So., 6-4, 199)
DE: Devin West (So., 6-2, 217)
RB: Ernest Blackwell (Sr., 6-3, 249)*
WR: Jeremy Brocke (Fr., 6-1, 179)
WR: Eddie Brooks (So., 6-1, 204)*
TE: Jake Stueve (So., 6-3, 242)
LT: Chris Meredith (So., 6-5, 275)
LG: Mitch Henderson (Jr., 6-3, 256)
C: Michael Valadez (Fr., 6-2, 283)
RG: Tim Ridgely (Fr., 6-4, 276)
RT: Craig Heimburger (So., 6-3, 293)
DE: Eric Douglas (Sr., 6-5, 259)
DT: Tim Mittelstadt (So., 6-6, 253)*
NT: Rob Riti (Fr., 6-3, 256)
DE: Kevin Ford (Jr., 6-1, 220)
LB: Shawn Sundall (Jr., 6-2, 228)
LB: Justin Carter (Fr., 6-2, 220)
LB: Brett Libke (Jr., 6-3, 248)
CB: Stephen Scott (Fr., 6-1, 183)
CB: Randy Potter (So., 5-10, 175)
SS: Terrence Binion (Jr., 6-3, 187)
FS: Harold Piersey (So., 6-2, 183)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Scott Knickman (Jr., 5-11, 217)
P: Keith Massa (Sr., 6-4, 190)
 (* denotes returning starter)

NEBRASKA



TERRELL FARLEY-LB

JED JACOBSON/ALLSPORT USA

By JOHN ROACH

Here are three words for those new Big 12 rivals anticipating a shot at two-time defending champ Nebraska just when it seems the Huskers are down: Forget about it. Nebraska wasn't as senior-dominated as the Big Red Machine appeared on its way to becoming the first unbeaten, untied team to win consensus back-to-back national championships since Oklahoma in 1955-'56.

No one got closer than two touchdowns to the Huskers all last season. But that doesn't mean Nebraska's better days are behind it. Yes, the Huskers lost Tommie Frazier, perhaps the best option quarterback ever, Lawrence Phillips, line anchor Aaron Graham and defensive lineman Christian Peter.

But the Huskers return seven of the record-setting team's top 10 scorers and nine of the top 12 leading tacklers. Nebraska has an active string of three consecutive perfect regular seasons, has won the last five Big Eight titles and has been to an NCAA-record 27 consecutive bowl games, including a record 15 straight New Year's Day bowls. So what other three words come to mind as Nebraska begins its new affiliation with the Big 12? How about: National Champion again?

OFFENSE: The biggest question facing Nebraska this season begins with each snap. Can 6-foot-3 junior Scott Frost step in and take over Nebraska's vaunted option attack? Frost will have plenty of help in front of him on the offensive line with returning stars and possible All-America candidates in center Aaron Taylor, tackle Eric Anderson and guard Chris Dishman.

Running behind them, sophomore Ahman Green—who averaged 7.7 yards a carry—could be frightening if he follows up on his 1,086-yard freshman season. Nebraska had seven one-play scoring drives last year; that potential explosiveness is still there with Green and backups Damon Benning and prize freshman DeAngelo Evans.

Wingback Jon Vedral led the team in touchdowns receptions with five and is the third-highest returning scorer (42 points) behind kicker Kris Brown (97) and Green (96).

DEFENSE: Coach Tom Osborne is excited about his team's defense and with good reason. He returns three All-America selections—defensive ends Jared Tomich and Grant Wistrom and linebacker Terrell Farley. Osborne's shift a few years ago from a 5-2 to a 4-3 alignment "really simplified our defense and we were able to slot people better," Osborne said. "We're really playing now with six defensive backs."

Nebraska was second nationally against the run last year, yielding just 78.2 yards per game. Farley, a JUCO transfer who was the Big Eight Defensive Newcomer of the Year, led the team in tackles, followed by DB Mike Minter and LB Jamal Williams. "Williams turned out to be a great linebacker," Osborne said.

Others to watch among the Red Sea include linebacker Jay Foreman and starting defensive tackle Jason Peter, who returns to anchor the interior of the defensive line.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Kris Brown, had a fantastic season, setting a school record for freshman scoring with 97 points—breaking Calvin Jones' old mark of 84. Brown made 13 of 16 field-goal attempts and 58 of 61 PATs.

Punter Jesse Kosch also stepped in as a first-time starter last season and averaged 40.3 yards per punt. Kosch did not have a punt blocked and he placed 11 of his 27 kicks inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

RECRUITING: The Huskers landed another Top 10 class, led by the 5-9 Evans, perhaps the nation's top running back. Evans finished third all-time nationally in career touchdowns with 131 and fourth with 8,472 career yards despite missing several games in his senior year with a severe left ankle sprain that has since completely healed.

Evans isn't the only gem. Defensive backs Mike Brown and Ralph Brown are fast, and offensive linemen Justin Farrell and Sasho Becvarovs-ki are ready to carry on the tradition.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Scott Frost (Jr., 6-3, 215)	Matt Turman (Sr., 5-11, 185)
TB: Ahman Green (So., 6-0, 210)*	Damon Benning (Sr., 5-11, 210)
FB: Brian Schuster (Sr., 5-11, 225)	Joel Makovicka (Sr., 5-11, 230)
VB: Jon Vedral (Sr., 5-11, 205)	R. Washington (Sr., 5-9, 170)
SE: Brendan Holbein (Sr., 5-9, 190)	Lance Brown (So., 5-11, 190)
TE: Tim Carpenter (Jr., 6-3, 250)	Sheldon Jackson (So., 6-4, 250)
LT: Adam Treu (Sr., 6-6, 300)	Fred Pollack (Jr., 6-4, 305)
LG: Chris Dishman (Sr., 6-3, 310)*	James Sherman (Fr., 6-2, 305)
C: Aaron Taylor (Jr., 6-1, 305)*	Matt Vrzal (Sr., 6-1, 300)
RG: Jon Zatechka (Jr., 6-2, 290)	Matt Hoskinson (So., 6-1, 280)
RT: Eric Anderson (Jr., 6-4, 300)*	Kory Mikos (Sr., 6-5, 295)

DEFENSE

DE: Jared Tomich (Sr., 6-2, 260)*	Chad Kelsay (So., 6-3, 230)
DT: Jeff Ogard (Sr., 6-6, 300)	Scott Saltsman (Sr., 6-2, 270)
DT: Jason Peter (Jr., 6-4, 285)*	Jason Wiltz (So., 6-3, 295)
DE: Grant Wistrom (Jr., 6-3, 250)*	Mike Rucker (So., 6-6, 250)
LB: Jamal Williams (Sr., 6-2, 205)	Tony Ortiz (Fr., 6-0, 205)
LB: Jay Foreman (So., 6-1, 225)*	Jon Hesse (Sr., 6-4, 250)
LB: Terrell Farley (Sr., 6-1, 205)*	Ryan Terwilliger (Sr., 6-5, 225)
CB: Michael Booker (Sr., 6-2, 205)*	Chad Blahak (Sr., 5-9, 190)
CB: Mike Fullman (Sr., 5-7, 170)	Leslie Dennis (Jr., 5-8, 185)
SS: Mike Minter (Sr., 5-10, 190)*	O. McFarlin (Jr., 5-11, 190)
FS: Eric Stokes (Sr., 5-11, 185)	Eric Warfield (Jr., 6-1, 195)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Kris Brown (So., 5-10, 200)*	Ted Retzlaff (Jr., 6-0, 190)
P: Jesse Kosch (Jr., 6-0, 185)*	Bill Lafleur (Fr., 5-11, 200)

(* denotes returning starter)



FACTS

COACH: Tom Osborne, 24th year, 230-47-3
'95 RECORD: 12-0 (7-0 conf.)
FINAL RANKINGS: No. 1 AP, USA Today/CNN
HOME STADIUM: Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb. (73,650, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 13 (4 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Tommie Frazier, QB (1st-team All America); Aaron Graham, OL (1st-team All America); Christian Peter, DL (1st-team All-Big Eight); Lawrence Phillips, RB (entered NFL Draft); Tyrone Williams, DB (1st-team All-Big Eight)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Matt Turman, Sr., 4-12-73 yards, 1 TD, 2 INTs
RUSHING: Ahman Green, Soph., 141 carries, 1,086 yards, 13 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): John Vedral (5 TDs) and Brendan Holbein (1 TD), Srs., 14 each
RECEIVING (YARDS): Vedral, 272
TACKLES: Terrell Farley, Sr., 62
SACKS: Farley, 5
INTERCEPTIONS: Farley and Michael Booker, Srs., 3 each
PUNTING: Jesse Kosch, Jr., 40.3 avg.
KICKING: Kris Brown, Soph., 13-16 FGs (long 47), 58-61 PATs
SCORING: Brown, 97 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 . . . MICHIGAN STATE
 Sept. 21 . . . at Arizona State
 Sept. 28 . . . COLORADO STATE
 Oct. 5 . . . at Kansas State
 Oct. 12 . . . BAYLOR (HC)
 Oct. 19 . . . at Texas Tech
 Oct. 26 . . . KANSAS
 Nov. 2 . . . at Oklahoma
 Nov. 9 . . . MISSOURI
 Nov. 16 . . . at Iowa State
 Nov. 29 . . . COLORADO

1995 RESULTS

Aug. 31 . . . at Oklahoma State; W, 64-21
 Sept. 9 . . . at Michigan State; W, 50-10
 Sept. 16 . . . ARIZONA STATE; W, 77-28
 Sept. 23 . . . PACIFIC; W, 49-7
 Sept. 30 . . . WASHINGTON STATE; W, 35-21
 Oct. 14 . . . MISSOURI; W, 57-0
 Oct. 21 . . . KANSAS STATE; W, 49-25
 Oct. 28 . . . at Colorado; W, 44-21
 Nov. 4 . . . IOWA STATE; W, 73-14
 Nov. 11 . . . at Kansas; W, 41-3
 Nov. 24 . . . OKLAHOMA; W, 37-0
 Jan. 2 . . . vs. Florida in Fiesta Bowl; W, 62-24

MILESTONE

■ Nebraska has registered nine or more victories for an NCAA-record 27 consecutive seasons.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Quarterback Scott Frost must make a quick transition to starter.
- The defense must do as well as expected, especially early.
- Ahman Green needs another 1,000-yard plus season, something he's capable of doing.



BAYLOR

FACTS

COACH: Chuck Reedy, 4th year, 19-15
'95 RECORD: 7-4 (5-2 SWC)
HOME STADIUM: Floyd Casey Stadium, Waco, Texas (50,000, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 13 (8 off., 4 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: LaCurtis Jones, LB (1st-team All-SWC); Fred Miller, OL (1st-team All-SWC); Daryl Gardener, DL (1st-team All-SWC); Adrian Robinson, DB (1st-team All-SWC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Jeff Watson, Jr., 113-214-1,508 yards, 5 TDs, 6 INTs
RUSHING: Jerod Douglas, Jr., 211 carries, 1,114 yards, 8 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Kalief Muhammad, Sr., 37, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Pearce Pegross, Jr., 582
TACKLES: Dean Jackson, Jr., 82
SACKS: Donnie Embra, Sr., 3.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Jackson, 3
PUNTING: Ty Atteberry, Sr., 38.1 avg.
KICKING: None
SCORING: Douglas, 48 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 ...at Louisiana Tech
 Sept. 14 ...at Louisville
 Sept. 21 ...OREGON STATE
 Oct. 5 ...at Texas Tech
 Oct. 12 ...at Nebraska
 Oct. 19 ...OKLAHOMA
 Oct. 26 ...IOWA STATE (HC)
 Nov. 2 ...at Texas
 Nov. 9 ...TEXAS A&M
 Nov. 16 ...MISSOURI
 Nov. 23 ...at Oklahoma State

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...at Tulsa; W, 37-5
 Sept. 16 ...MISSISSIPPI STATE; L, 30-21
 Sept. 23 ...at N.C. State; W, 14-0
 Sept. 30 ...TEXAS TECH; W, 9-7
 Oct. 14 ...at Houston; W, 47-7
 Oct. 21 ...TEXAS A&M; L, 24-9
 Oct. 28 ...TCU; W, 27-24
 Nov. 4 ...at Miami (Fla.); L, 35-14
 Nov. 11 ...at SMU; W, 48-7
 Nov. 18 ...RICE; W, 34-6
 Nov. 23 ...at Texas; L, 21-13

MILESTONE

■ No Baylor quarterback has thrown 20 or more touchdown passes in a season ever. Buddy Humphrey threw a school-record 17 TDs in 1958.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

■ Quick rebuilding of a defense that was gutted by graduation.
 ■ More consistency from the quarterback spot.
 ■ Go into the Big 12 schedule with a 3-0 mark, an attainable goal considering the Bears open the season against Louisiana Tech, Louisville and Oregon State.

By JONATHAN FEIGEN

Under Grant Teaff, Baylor fans were happy to have their team find an occasional over-achiever in recruiting and consistently contend for, if not necessarily win, the Southwest Conference championship.

Chuck Reedy, Teaff's successor, changed that. He's gone toe-to-toe with Texas and Texas A&M in recruiting and has landed more than his share of coveted Texas talent. But with the Bears' success recruiting, expectations have changed.

Baylor fans are no longer satisfied with contending. They see Jerod Douglas at tailback and soon expect to see prep superstar Odell James at quarterback. They believe the Bears are ready to win at least a conference championship.

Reedy does not disagree. "Everything we do," he said, "is done with building a national champion in mind."

In many ways, Douglas and James typify Reedy's recruiting prowess—he beat out Texas for Douglas in the state's most-watched recruiting battle years, and lured James despite Nebraska's hopes to make him the next Tommie Frazier.

But for three seasons, Baylor has beaten the teams it was expected to beat and lost to the teams it would have to beat to take the next step. That helped cost offensive coordinator Jack Crowe his job as the Baylor passing game disintegrated over the past three years. It will have to improve this season, if only because the Baylor defense will have a hard time remaining at last season's level, especially at their new home—the Big 12 Conference.

OFFENSE: The Bears are so loaded at tailback, Douglas must take turns in the backfield. He still gets close to 25 carries a game, catches his share of passes, returns kicks and remains a threat to go the length of the field with every touch.

Anthony Overstreet (285 yards, 7 TDs) and Dexter Ford (163 rushing yards) give Reedy options at tailback after Douglas, and Shawn Washington and



JEFF WATSON-QB

Clifton Rubin are strong fullbacks.

The question remains at quarterback. Reedy brought in Mike Gundy, the former Oklahoma State passer and Oklahoma assistant, to tutor his quarterbacks, in particular two-year starter Jeff Watson (1,508 yards, 5 TDs, 6 INTs). Watson had a very strong spring, holding off Rodney Smith and Jermaine Alfred for the position. James, however, will likely be groomed quickly—if he's academically eligible. Reedy plans to use his quarterbacks more on the run, a James strength.

DEFENSE: The Bears developed one of the league's best defenses last season but did it with seven senior starters, including Miami Dolphins No. 1 pick Daryl Gardener, linebacker LaCurtis Jones (113 tackles) and defensive back Adrian Robinson.

Linemen Roderick Kinney, Sheldon Mallory and Donnie Embra have all played well at times, with Kinney (48 tackles, 1.5 sacks) developing into a strong nose guard. Robert Mason and Glenn Coy could be outstanding linebackers, and defensive backs George McCullough, Nikia Codie and Michael Benjamin (70 tackles) have all shown signs of being able to step in.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Punter Ty Atteberry has been inconsistent but does have a strong leg. He might not, however, have the strongest leg among Atteberrys on the team, with brother Kyle recruited as a kicker and competing with Bryan Hawkins for the job. The return teams are outstanding, with Douglas among the nation's best return specialists.

RECRUITING: Baylor's recruiting success began with James but did not end there. Needing linebacker help, Baylor signed eight at the position, highlighted by McKinley Bowie, Eddrick Brooks and Chris Micheux, who chose Baylor over Texas Tech because he did not trust the water in Lubbock.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Jeff Watson (Jr., 6-0, 200)* **Odell James** (Fr., 6-4, 205)
RB: Jerod Douglas (Jr., 5-9, 174)* **Anthony Overstreet** (Jr., 6-0, 210)
RB: S. Washington (Sr., 6-1, 230)* **Clifton Rubin** (Jr., 6-0, 218)
WR: Pearce Pegross (Jr., 5-9, 170)* **Derrius Thompson** (So., 6-2, 203)
WR: K. Muhammad (Sr., 5-6, 180)* **Chris Cagnolatti** (Jr., 5-7, 157)
TE: Bradley Domel* (Jr., 6-4, 233) **Clifford Isom** (So., 6-4, 241)
LT: David Davis (Sr., 6-4, 306)* **Brandon Pierpoint** (Jr., 6-5, 275)
LG: A. Williams (So., 6-3, 267)* **Chris Sampy** (So., 6-1, 271)
C: Danny Fletcher (Jr., 6-4, 247) **Brian Sutton** (Fr., 6-4, 259)
RG: Kelvin Garmon (So., 6-2, 293) **Jerome Jackson** (Jr., 6-3, 297)
RT: Michael Johnson (Jr., 6-3, 305)* **Carlos Rocha** (Fr., 6-3, 291)

DEFENSE

DE: Sheldon Mallory (Jr., 6-4, 274) **Dwight Johnson** (Fr., 6-4, 266)
NT: Roderick Kinney (Jr., 6-3, 285)* **Derrick Fletcher** (So., 6-7, 360)
DE: Donnie Embra (Sr., 6-2, 295) **Josh Wenke** (Sr., 6-3, 265)
LB: Clarence Cruse (So., 6-3, 226) **Kenyada Parker** (So., 6-2, 207)
LB: Dean Jackson (Jr., 6-1, 228)* **Don Arroyo** (Fr., 6-3, 230)
LB: Glenn Coy (Jr., 6-3, 248) **Malcolm Hamilton** (Sr., 6-2, 231)
LB: Robert Mason (Sr., 6-1, 222) **Anthony Taylor** (Jr., 6-0, 191)
CB: G. McCullough (Sr., 5-10, 186)* **Sean Armistead** (Fr., 5-9, 174)
CB: Matt Anderson (So., 5-10, 176) **Allen Pace** (Fr., 5-10, 166)
SS: M. Benjamin (Sr., 6-0, 194)* **Curtis Henderson** (So., 5-10, 196)
FS: Nikia Codie (So., 6-3, 204) **Brandon Bonds** (Fr., 5-10, 184)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Kyle Atteberry (Fr., 6-0, 193) **Bryan Hawkins** (So., 5-9, 168)
P: Ty Atteberry (Sr., 6-0, 196)* **Kyle Atteberry** (Fr., 6-0, 193)
 (* denotes returning starter)

Jonathan Feigen covers Big 12 football for the Houston (Texas) Chronicle.

OKLAHOMA



STEPHEN ALEXANDER-TE

USA/OKLAHOMA

By MARK WANGRIN

A year ago, Howard Schnellenberger canvassed the Oklahoma countryside preaching confidently about the new "Sooner Nation" and a return not just to prominence, but national championships.

His timetable: Now. If not Sooner.

But Schnellenberger's express train to the top never got out of the station. An ill-equipped offense, inept blocking on special teams and a near player mutiny led to Schnellenberger's resignation after only one season.

In came Dallas Cowboys assistant John Blake, a former Sooners player and coach under Barry Switzer, who also harkened a return to the old days.

His timetable: Whoa.

Blake has the defense to be respectable immediately, but rebuilding an offense that did not score in the last 10 quarters of the Schnellenberger Era won't happen quickly.

OFFENSE: With a generous helping of youth, Blake's age (34) figures to come in handy.

Oklahoma has five new starters along the line and little experience behind them. Sophomore Eric Moore, who is a passing threat seemingly only when he's running, is atop three redshirt freshmen on the depth chart at quarterback, although Justin Fuente's better arm and passing skills could earn him the starting job. Whoever starts will have three new faces—Michigan transfer Seth Smith and a pair of seldom-used sophomores, Chris Blocker (2 catches, 24 yards) and Gerald Williams (one catch, 16 yards)—as the wideouts.

Even senior halfback James Allen (338 yards, 2 TDs) may give way to youth in redshirt freshman De'mond Parker or sophomore Bennie Butler, who sat out last season under Prop. 48. At least tight end Stephen Alexander, an All-America candidate, won't be looking over his shoulder. He caught a team-best 43 passes for 580 yards and

two touchdowns last season.

Charged with rebuilding the offense is Dick Winder, whose offense at Texas Tech last season ranked in the top 25 in scoring and rushing. He'll switch to the I-formation.

DEFENSE: Even with end Cedric Jones (11 sacks) moving on to the pros, the Sooners won't need much rebuilding up front. Baron Tanner (52 tackles) and Martin Chase (33 tackles) return at the tackle spots and Rod Manuel (17 tackles, 5 sacks) at right end in the attacking 4-3 set. Mike Phipps, a runstopper, inherits Jones' position with Manuel taking on his pass-rushing legacy.

Oklahoma is solid and experienced at linebacker with Broderick Simpson (team-high 108 tackles) and Travian Smith (25 tackles) outside and Tyrell Peters (107 tackles) inside. There's work to be done in the secondary, with three new starters surrounding free safety Anthony Fogle (29 tackles, 2 INTs). Anthony Davis, a redshirt last year, should be the answer at strong safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Last season, seven Sooners punts were blocked, with four of them going for touchdowns. Beleaguered punter Tim Daughtry could give way to Brian Lewis, who has the edge of a better leg but the decided drawback of being slower getting off the punt. Kicker Jeremy Alexander, a finalist for the 1995 Lou Groza Award, is back after hitting 14 of 17 field goals last season.

RECRUITING: Oklahoma is the land of opportunity for offensive linemen. Four newcomers could step right in, including C.B. Baker of Woodlands Texas McCullough, Adam Carpenter of Pilot Point, Texas, Scott Kempenich of Wagoner, Okla., and Sammy Williams of Coffeyville (Kan.) Junior College. Brandon Daniels, a wishbone quarterback from Aida, is a running back who could add Kordell Stewart-type versatility. The Sooners lost one Cedric Jones, so they got another—fullback/linebacker Sedrick Jones of Altus, Okla.

Mark Wangrin covers the Big 12 for the Austin American-Statesman.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Eric Moore (So., 6-0, 176)*	Justin Fuente (Fr., 6-2, 225)
RB: James Allen (Sr., 5-10, 209)*	De'mond Parker (Fr., 5-10, 170)
RB: Michael Rose (Jr., 5-10, 228)	Jermaine Fzande (So., 6-0, 244)
WR: Gerald Williams (So., 6-3, 186)	Seth Smith (So., 5-11, 176)
WR: Chris Blocker (So., 6-1, 209)	Jarril Jackson (Fr., 5-8, 176)
TE: S. Alexander (Jr., 6-4, 232)*	Jason Freeman (So., 6-3, 232)
LT: Barry Giles (Jr., 6-5, 291)	Ricky Clark (Fr., 6-2, 288)
LG: Chris Campbell (Sr., 6-3, 302)	Able Simmons (Jr., 6-0, 279)
C: Bruce McClure (Jr., 6-5, 269)	Tim Macias (So., 6-2, 259)
RG: Jon Mulac (Jr., 6-3, 272)	Derrick Nelson (Jr., 6-2, 280)
RT: Jay Smith (So., 6-3, 280)	David Bullard (Sr., 6-4, 301)

DEFENSE

DE: Mike Phipps (Jr., 6-2, 263)	Greg Moyer (So., 6-2, 250)
DT: Baron Tanner (Sr., 6-3, 303)*	Scott Wilson (Jr., 6-1, 261)
DT: Kelly Gregg (So., 6-0, 267)	Martin Chase (Jr., 6-2, 282)*
DE: Rod Manuel (Sr., 6-5, 265)*	Carlos Baker (So., 6-3, 262)
LB: Travian Smith (Jr., 6-4, 225)	Collin Rosenberg (Sr., 6-2, 230)
LB: Tyrell Peters (Sr., 6-0, 223)*	Terrance Malone (So., 6-2, 220)
LB: Broderick Simpson (Sr., 6-1, 213)*	Dale Allen (So., 6-2, 208)
CB: Ramon Burroughs (Jr., 6-1, 165)	Clovis Woods (Fr., 5-9, 173)
CB: Cedric Stephens (So., 5-9, 173)	Cornelius Davis (Jr., 6-0, 195)
SS: Anthony Davis (Fr., 5-11, 206)	Terry White (So., 5-10, 186)
FS: Anthony Fogle (Sr., 5-11, 196)*	Cornelius Davis (Jr., 6-0, 195)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Alexander (Jr., 5-10, 186)*	Nick Lynch (Jr., 6-0, 213)
P: Brian Lewis (So., 6-2, 220)	Tim Daughtry (Jr., 6-1, 223)

(* denotes returning starter)



FACTS

COACH: John Blake, 1st year

'95 RECORD: 5-5-1 (2-5 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Memorial Stadium, Norman, Okla. (75,004, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 10 (3 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Cedric Jones, DL (3rd-team All America); Jerald Moore, RB (2nd-team All-Big Eight, left early for NFL Draft); Darrius Johnson, DB (Hon. mention All-Big Eight); P.J. Mills, WR

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Eric Moore, Soph., 90-200-1,375 yards, 7 TDs, 9 INTs

RUSHING: James Allen, Sr., 87 carries, 338 yards, 2 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Stephen Alexander, Jr., 43, 2 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Alexander, 580

TACKLES: Broderick Simpson, Sr., 108

SACKS: Rod Manuel, Sr., 5

INTERCEPTIONS: Anthony Fogle, Sr., 2

PUNTING: Brian Lewis, Soph., 40.8 avg.

KICKING: Jeremy Alexander, Jr., 14-17 FGs (long 43), 23-24 PATs

SCORING: Alexander, 65 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 .TCU

Sept. 21 .at San Diego State

Sept. 28 .TULSA

Oct. 5 .KANSAS (HC)

Oct. 12 .vs. Texas*

Oct. 19 .at Baylor

Oct. 26 .at Kansas State

Nov. 2 .NEBRASKA

Nov. 9 .at Oklahoma State

Nov. 16 .at Texas A&M

Nov. 23 .TEXAS TECH

* at Cotton Bowl, Dallas

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 9 .SAN DIEGO STATE; W, 38-22

Sept. 16 .SMU; W, 24-10

Sept. 23 .NORTH TEXAS; W, 51-10

Sept. 30 .COLORADO; L, 38-17

Oct. 7 .at Iowa State; W, 39-26

Oct. 14 .vs. Texas; T, 24-24*

Oct. 21 .KANSAS; L, 38-17

Oct. 28 .at Missouri; W, 13-9

Nov. 4 .at Kansas State; L, 49-10

Nov. 11 .OKLAHOMA STATE; L, 12-0

Nov. 24 .at Nebraska; L, 37-0

* at Cotton Bowl, Dallas

MILESTONE

■ John Blake returns to Oklahoma in his third different capacity. He played with the Sooners from 1979-'82, served as an assistant coach from 1989-'92 and is back as the head coach.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find solid and consistent play from inexperienced offensive line.
- Get better passing from Eric Moore or Justin Fuente.
- Improve punt protection.



OKLAHOMA STATE

FACTS

COACH: Bob Simmons, 2nd year, 3-8
'95 RECORD: 4-8 (2-5 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Lewis Field, Stillwater, Okla. (50,614, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 15 (8 off., 7 def.)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Greg Ivy, P (3rd-team All America); Jevon Langford, DL (left early for NFL Draft); Lawson Vaughn, K (2nd-team All-Big Eight)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Toné Jones, Sr., 104-218-1,185 yards, 7 TDs, 11 INTs
RUSHING: David Thompson, Sr., 256 carries, 1,509 yards, 8 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Alonzo Mayes, Jr., 32, 4 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Mayes, 421
TACKLES: Jamal Williams, Soph., 73
SACKS: Jay Grosfield, Sr., 7
INTERCEPTIONS: R.W. McQuarters, Soph., 3
PUNTING: None
KICKING: None
SCORING: Jones, 62 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...SW MISSOURI STATE
 Sept. 7 ...vs. Texas Tech*
 Sept. 14 ...TULSA
 Sept. 21 ...UTAH STATE
 Oct. 5 ...at Texas
 Oct. 12 ...at Colorado
 Oct. 19 ...IOWA STATE (HC)
 Oct. 26 ...at Missouri
 Nov. 2 ...TEXAS A&M
 Nov. 9 ...OKLAHOMA
 Nov. 23 ...BAYLOR

* at Texas Stadium, Dallas, Texas

1995 RESULTS

Aug. 31 ...NEBRASKA; L, 64-21
 Sept. 9 ...at Tulsa; L, 24-23
 Sept. 16 ...SW MISSOURI STATE; W, 35-7
 Sept. 23 ...at Wyoming; L, 45-25
 Sept. 30 ...at Tennessee; L, 31-0
 Oct. 14 ...KANSAS STATE; L, 23-17
 Oct. 21 ...at Missouri; W, 30-26
 Oct. 28 ...at Iowa State; L, 38-14
 Nov. 4 ...COLORADO; L, 45-32
 Nov. 11 ...at Oklahoma; W, 12-0
 Nov. 18 ...KANSAS; L, 22-17
 Dec. 2 ...at Hawaii; W, 24-20

MILESTONE

■ Tailback David Thompson needs 1,206 yards to become the ninth player in the combined histories of the Big Eight and Southwest conferences to rush for 4,000 career yards.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Tighten a pass defense that gave up 62 plays of 15 yards or longer last season.
- Find consistency fast from special teams that sport a new punter, kicker and long-snapper.
- Improve their minus-9 turnover margin.

By MARK WANGRIN

Bob Simmons had a word for his first spring practice. "Intimate," the second-year Oklahoma State coach said.

Indeed it was. Just Simmons, his staff and 57 players, only about 40 of whom were on scholarship, went through drills. The Cowboys didn't have enough players for full scout teams, and many of the second-teamers were walk-ons. With those small numbers, Simmons set about eradicating the mindset that grew as Oklahoma State went winless in the Big Eight for three seasons.

"Oh, woe is me. We've been on probation," Simmons said, recalling the attitude. "That happened four or five years ago. There was a mentality that we couldn't do anything about."

Simmons changed that. On the first day of practice in his first year, he welcomed the full complement of 102 players, including 19 freshmen who were forced into action last fall as the Cowboys beat intrastate rival Oklahoma for the first time since 1976.

"We've come a long way," Simmons said. "We've kept climbing, and we're on the way up."

The way up gets tougher this season as the Big Eight becomes the Big 12, and the Cowboys have road games against Texas Tech, Texas and Colorado. **OFFENSE:** Every year, quarterback Toné Jones has faced a battle for his job. Now, even though he's the No. 3 passer in school history and needs only 379 yards to move into second place behind Mike Gundy, he faces another. This time, the challenger is Joe Phears, one of the top-rated junior-college quarterbacks in the nation last season out of Pasadena (Calif.) City College.

The tailback job isn't up for grabs thanks to senior David Thompson, the second-leading returning rusher in the Big 12 behind Troy Davis of Iowa State. Simmons will likely pair Thompson with his backup, former Big Eight Freshman of the Year Andre Richardson (1,479 in two seasons), to take some of the defensive focus off Thompson.



ANDRE RICHARDSON-RB

JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT USA

Although 14 of the 15 players who caught passes last season return, improving the receiving corps is the focus, since only five of those receivers registered double-digit reception totals. Tight end Alonzo Mayes was a second-team All-Big Eight pick with 32 catches for 421 yards.

DEFENSE: Five freshmen started at one point during 1995 as the Cowboys defense struggled with consistency. That on-the-job training figures to pay off this year for sophomore inside linebackers Josh Green and Billy Stone (113 combined tackles). The pair suddenly become the veteran calming influence for a rebuilding front seven that must replace four starters, including outside linebacker Jevon Langford, who left a year early for the NFL. Defensive end Jay Grosfield (seven sacks) and nose guard Jamal Williams (six sacks) are the keys to a pass rush that needs to take heat off a secondary that allowed 27 touchdowns through the air. **SPECIAL TEAMS:** A strength of last year's team, the kicking game turns into one of the biggest questions. Kicker Lawson Vaughn and All-Big Eight punter Greg Ivy are gone, as is unsung hero Mike Curtis, who didn't botch a long snap in four seasons.

The Cowboys went for the quick fix at punter, signing JUCO star Jason Davis of Blinn (Texas) College, who averaged 43.0 yards per punt. They'll depend on redshirt freshman Tim Sydnies, who hit field goals of 63 and 53 yards in high school, to fill in for Vaughn. Versatile sophomore R.W. McQuarters is the top return specialist.

RECRUITING: Quarterback Tony Lindsay of Denver, Colo., and running back Eric Stevenson (1,300 yards and 56 career TDs) of Crescent, Okla., picked Oklahoma State over Nebraska. Offensive lineman David Camacho (6-8, 310) from Los Angeles Harbor Junior College could break into the starting lineup at guard.

Mark Wangrin covers the Big 12 for the Austin American-Statesman.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Toné Jones (Sr., 5-11, 190)*
RB: David Thompson (Sr., 5-8, 200)*
RB: Brian Aikens (So., 6-1, 245)
WR: T. Richardson (So., 5-10, 190)*
WR: Kent Luck (Sr., 5-8, 175)*
TE: Alonzo Mayes (Jr., 6-6, 265)*
LT: Derek Leinen (Sr., 6-4, 292)*
LG: Jim Villanueva (Jr., 6-3, 272)
C: Josh Henson (Sr., 6-2, 250)*
RG: Jeremy Offutt (So., 6-5, 260)
RT: Calvin Menephee (Jr., 6-2, 320)*

DEFENSE

DE: Jay Grosfield (Sr., 6-4, 255)*
NT: Jamal Williams (So., 6-3, 260)
DE: Billy Ensey (So., 6-3, 260)
LB: Louis Adams (Sr., 6-1, 225)*
LB: Billy Stone (So., 6-1, 230)
LB: Josh Green (So., 6-0, 215)*
LB: Andre Waddle (So., 6-2, 225)
CB: Jitu Criddle (Sr., 6-1, 185)
CB: R.W. McQuarters (So., 5-11, 185)*
SS: Courtney Garner (Sr., 6-0, 185)*
FS: Trent Fisher (Sr., 5-10, 190)*

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Tim Sydnies (Fr., 6-2, 180)
P: Jason Davis (Jr., 6-0, 215)
QB: Joe Phears (Jr., 6-2, 200)
RB: Andre Richardson (Jr., 5-9, 190)
WR: M. Whitehead (So., 6-2, 215)
WR: Willie Grissom (So., 5-11, 190)
WR: Adam Edwards (Fr., 6-2, 200)
WR: Jack Golden (So., 6-3, 225)
WR: Chris Lewis (So., 6-5, 260)
WR: Adam Davis (Fr., 6-6, 240)
WR: David Snow (Jr., 6-1, 260)
WR: Blaine Cook (Fr., 6-4, 255)
WR: A. Golembiewski (Fr., 6-5, 265)

(* denotes returning starter)

TEXAS



SHON MITCHELL-RB

ROBERT SEALE/ALLSPORT USA

By JONATHAN FEIGEN

Texas won 10 games. It grabbed the final Southwest Conference championship. It finally beat Texas A&M in College Station, ending—or interrupting, depending on one's perspective in one of the nation's most pervasive rivalries—a decade of dominance.

But the true measure of success at Texas is found in two words, "We're back."

To Texas, nothing says more. And the Longhorns were just about in full strut after last season. Texas coach John Mackovic went from the hot seat to the owner of a new \$3-million contract that, with incentives, could be worth \$1 million for a national championship season. And the Longhorns began speaking of chasing a national title, something they have not contended for since 1983 or claimed since 1970.

OFFENSE: Texas appeared to be in better shape in the backfield and at quarterback than at any time in more than a decade.

Things changed, however, when sophomore fullback Ricky Williams (990 yards, 8 TDs) opted to spend his spring and summer playing minor-league baseball and quarterback James Brown was forced to miss spring practices to rehabilitate his right shoulder.

Williams is expected to return for two-a-days, and did come off the baseball field to immediately assume the starting position as a true freshman last year. But Brown's shoulder, which limited his effectiveness in an injury-plagued sophomore year, continues to concern him. Reserves Richard Walton (15-of-32 passing, 268 yards, 2 TDs, 2 INTs) and Marty Cherry have strong arms, if not Brown's running ability, but were inconsistent in the spring.

If Brown does regain his arm strength, he should be one of the Big 12's better passers and will be surrounded by talent with halfback Shon Mitchell, receiver Mike Adams (53 recs., 876 yards) and tight

end Pat Fitzgerald (30 recs., 445 yards, 8 TDs).

Of greater concern is the line. Mackovic does return All-America candidate Dan Neil, but must fill two tackle spots. Octavius Bishop, a leading candidate, is coming off knee surgery.

DEFENSE: The defensive line might be a greater concern to the Longhorns than the offensive front. Nose guard Chris Akins (98 tackles, 4 sacks) can dominate, but sophomores Clarence Martin and Gray Mosier (28 tackles combined) have a long way to go to replace the often spectacular Tony Brackens, who left one year early for the NFL.

The Longhorns think they might have finally found their impact linebacker in Damon Luckett to complement steady inside linebackers Tyson King (led the team in tackles the last two years) and Kyle Richardson.

The real strength of the defense is the secondary, which not only returns intact but has three players entering their fourth season as starters. Bryant Westbrook and Taje Allen are outstanding man-to-man covers, while safeties Tre Thomas and Chris Carter are coming off their best seasons.

SPECIAL TEAMS: In Phil Dawson, the Longhorns believed they had an All-America candidate at kicker. But like so many key Texas players, he is coming off an injury after a weight room accident in which he re-aggravated an ACL tear he unknowingly suffered in high school.

Dawson is expected to be kicking by July, and with Mark Schultis, gives Texas an outstanding kicker/punter combination. Adams gives the Longhorns a breakaway threat as a return man.

RECRUITING: Texas had its best recruiting crop of Mackovic's five seasons. The Longhorns did especially well where they needed help most, on the defensive line, where Cedric Woodard, Derrick Curry and Casey Hampton could play quickly. Texas also re-stocked the offensive line, led by Roger Roesler.

Jonathan Feigen covers the Big 12 for the Houston Chronicle.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: James Brown (Jr., 6-0, 186)*	Richard Walton (So., 6-5, 217)
RB: Shon Mitchell (Sr., 5-10, 185)*	Wane McGarity (So., 5-8, 190)
RB: Ricky Williams (So., 6-0, 225)*	Jeffrey Clayton (Sr., 5-10, 220)
WR: Curtis Jackson (Sr., 5-10, 188)	Courtney Epps (Jr., 6-1, 193)
WR: Mike Adams (Sr., 6-1, 185)*	Matt Davis (Sr., 6-5, 216)
TE: Pat Fitzgerald (Sr., 6-2, 225)*	Steve Bradley (Sr., 6-3, 250)
LT: Octavius Bishop (So., 6-5, 308)	Keith Frierson (Fr., 6-6, 260)
LG: Ben Adams (So., 6-5, 298)	Travis Wood (So., 6-2, 280)
C: Ryan Fiebigler (Jr., 6-3, 280)*	Russell Gaskamp (So., 6-4, 290)
RG: Dan Neil (Sr., 6-2, 285)*	Travis Wood (So., 6-2, 280)
RT: Jay Humphrey (So., 6-7, 287)	Brent Kelly (Jr., 6-6, 285)

DEFENSE

DE: Gray Mosier (So., 6-5, 250)	Cory Davies (Sr., 6-4, 247)
NT: Chris Akins (Jr., 6-1, 292)*	Bryon Lloyd (Jr., 6-2, 252)
DT: Clarence Martin (So., 6-2, 292)	Melvin Jenkins (Jr., 6-0, 260)
LB: Jonathan Hickerson (Sr., 6-0, 235)	Michael Boudoin (So., 6-2, 252)
LB: Kyle Richardson (Jr., 6-0, 230)*	Dusty Renfro (So., 6-0, 235)
LB: Tyson King (Sr., 6-0, 230)*	Anthony Hicks (Fr., 6-0, 234)
LB: Mark Kuper (So., 6-4, 236)	Damon Luckett (Fr., 6-2, 231)
CB: Taje Allen (Sr., 5-11, 180)*	Tony Holmes (So., 5-9, 185)
CB: B. Westbrook (Sr., 6-0, 197)*	Anton Hector (Fr., 6-1, 184)
SS: Tre Thomas (Sr., 6-2, 210)*	R. Crenshaw (Sr., 5-10, 195)
FS: Chris Carter (Sr., 6-1, 200)*	Cody Danaher (Sr., 6-0, 215)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Phil Dawson (Jr., 5-11, 187)*	Rory Walker (Sr., 5-11, 175)
P: Mark Schultis (Jr., 6-1, 195)*	Kris Stockton (Fr., 5-9, 165)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: John Mackovic, 5th year, 29-16-2; 73-52-3 overall
'95 RECORD: 10-2-1 (7-0 Southwest Conference)
FINAL RANKINGS: No. 14 AP, USA Today/CNN
HOME STADIUM: Memorial Stadium, Austin, Texas (77,809, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (7 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Tony Brackens, DL (2nd-team All America, entered NFL Draft)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: James Brown, Jr., 163-322-2,447 yards, 19 TDs, 12 INTs
RUSHING: Shon Mitchell, Sr., 176 carries, 1,099 yards, 10 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Mike Adams, Sr., 53, 3 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Adams, 876
TACKLES: Tyson King, Sr., 137
SACKS: King and Chris Akins, Jr., 4 each
INTERCEPTIONS: Chris Carter, Sr., 6
PUNTING: Mark Schultis, Jr., 40.4 avg.
KICKING: Phil Dawson, Jr., 13-20 FGs (long 52), 47-49 PATs
SCORING: Dawson, 86 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 . . . MISSOURI
 Sept. 7 . . . NEW MEXICO STATE
 Sept. 21 . . . NOTRE DAME
 Sept. 28 . . . at Virginia
 Oct. 5 . . . OKLAHOMA STATE (HC)
 Oct. 12 . . . vs. Oklahoma*
 Oct. 26 . . . at Colorado
 Nov. 2 . . . BAYLOR
 Nov. 9 . . . at Texas Tech
 Nov. 16 . . . at Kansas
 Nov. 29 . . . TEXAS A&M
 * Cotton Bowl, Dallas, Texas

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . . at Hawaii; W, 38-17
 Sept. 16 . . . PITTSBURGH; W, 38-27
 Sept. 23 . . . at Notre Dame; L, 55-27
 Sept. 30 . . . at SMU; W, 35-10
 Oct. 7 . . . RICE; W, 37-13
 Oct. 14 . . . vs. Oklahoma; T, 24-24*
 Oct. 21 . . . VIRGINIA; W, 17-16
 Nov. 4 . . . TEXAS TECH; W, 48-7
 Nov. 11 . . . at Houston; W, 52-20
 Nov. 18 . . . TCU; W, 27-19
 Nov. 23 . . . BAYLOR; W, 21-13
 Dec. 2 . . . at Texas A&M; W, 16-6
 Dec. 31 . . . vs. Virginia Tech in Sugar Bowl; L, 28-10
 * at Cotton Bowl, Dallas, Texas

MILESTONE

■ WR Mike Adams needs five receptions and 1,100 all-purpose yards to pass Eric Metcalf (1985-'88) and become the school's all-time leader in both categories.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- QB James Brown must stop experiencing pain in his throwing shoulder.
- John Mackovic must rebuild his offensive line.
- Find a defensive lineman with big-play capability to ease the loss of All America Tony Brackens.



TEXAS A&M

FACTS

COACH: R.C. Slocum, 8th year, 68-15-2

'95 RECORD: 9-3 (5-2 SWC)

FINAL RANKINGS: No. 15 AP, USA Today/CNN

HOME STADIUM: Kyle Field, College Station, Texas (70,210, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (5 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Leeland McElroy, RB (1st-team All America, left early for NFL Draft); Ray Mickens, DB (3rd-team All America); Reggie Brown, LB (1st-team All-SWC); Corey Pullig, QB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Stormy Case, Sr., 6-10-55 yards, 1 TD

RUSHING: D'Andre Hardeman, Soph., 62 carries, 313 yards, 2 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Albert Connell, Sr., 41, 7 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Connell, 653

TACKLES: Dat Nguyen, Soph., 94

SACKS: Keith Mitchell, Sr., 13

INTERCEPTIONS: Andre Williams, Sr., 2

PUNTING: None

KICKING: Kyle Bryant, Jr., 7-15 FGs (long 41), 31-32 PATs

SCORING: Bryant, 52 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 ...at BYU (Pigskin Classic)

Sept. 14 ...at SW Louisiana

Sept. 21 ...NORTH TEXAS

Sept. 28 ...COLORADO

Oct. 5 ...LOUISIANA TECH

Oct. 12 ...at Iowa State

Oct. 19 ...KANSAS STATE

Oct. 26 ...TEXAS TECH

Nov. 2 ...at Oklahoma State

Nov. 9 ...at Baylor

Nov. 16 ...OKLAHOMA

Nov. 29 ...at Texas

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...LOUISIANA STATE; W, 33-17

Sept. 16 ...TULSA; W, 52-9

Sept. 23 ...at Colorado; L, 29-21

Oct. 7 ...at Texas Tech; L, 14-7

Oct. 14 ...SMU; W, 20-17

Oct. 21 ...at Baylor; W, 24-9

Oct. 28 ...HOUSTON; W, 31-7

Nov. 9 ...at Rice; W, 17-10

Nov. 18 ...MIDDLE TENN. STATE; W, 56-14

Nov. 25 ...at TCU; W, 34-6

Dec. 2 ...TEXAS; L, 16-6

Dec. 28 ...vs. Michigan in Alamo Bowl; W, 22-20

MILESTONE

■ In R.C. Slocum's seven years as head coach at Texas A&M, the Aggies have posted a remarkable 39-2-1 record at Kyle Field. The two losses came to Arkansas in 1989 and Texas in 1995.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- QB Brannon Stewart must quickly develop into a leader.
- The running back-by-committee approach must replace Leeland McElroy's productivity.
- Cornerbacks Andre Williams and Donovan Greer must be completely healthy.

By JONATHAN FEIGEN

The talk is more low-key, far less brash. And with Leeland McElroy gone to the NFL, there is no Heisman campaign to be run. But listen closely, and the Aggies still speak of chasing a national championship, even if few are ready to rejoin them.

"We don't get respect now because we don't deserve it," offensive lineman Steve McKinney said. "We didn't beat any top five team last season. We have to beat Colorado and Nebraska, and it starts against BYU [Aug. 24]."

All the Aggies were talking national title last season, but when they lost at Colorado in the season's third game, they never recovered the swagger that had been so much a part of their four seasons of dominance of the Southwest Conference.

Texas A&M coach R.C. Slocum's team had a lot of trouble recovering because it could not reset its sights on winning a league it had run through unbeaten in the four previous seasons. That will not be a problem with the move to the Big 12. But like 1995, A&M has a soft non-conference schedule with the exception of BYU.

Should A&M get through that, the Aggies would be back within a win over Colorado from having the national championship talk again.

OFFENSE: McElroy left a year early. Corey Pullig, A&M's winningest quarterback ever, used all four allowable years as a starter, leaving four passers who have never started a game for the Aggies.

Ankle injuries slowed McElroy most of last season, but that allowed Slocum to begin breaking in D'Andre Hardeman and Sirr Parker. When McElroy was unable to play in the Alamo Bowl, Eric Bernard took a turn. And when Eric Jennings returned from his injury to have an outstanding spring, the Aggies had four promising tailbacks to succeed McElroy. To handle the math, A&M will likely play two half-back types at one time in a split-back formation.

The Aggies hope the change helps their passing game. But the key to that is the development of



SIRR PARKER-RB

Brannon Stewart, who grew tired of competing with Peyton Manning at Tennessee and transferred. The Aggies hope to use Stewart, a swifter collection of receivers and the versatile combination of backs to keep defenses off-balance.

DEFENSE: The Aggies went into the final game of last year's regular season as the nation's top-rated defense. That distinction was blown away by Texas, but considering how little ball-control support the "Wrecking Crew" received from its offense, that the A&M defense was even among the best was a remarkable accomplishment. And the Aggies expect no drop off in '96. End Brandon Mitchell is an All America, and nose tackle Edward Jasper has All-America potential. End Pat Williams is not far behind them.

The strength of the Aggies defense remains its linebackers. Keith Mitchell led A&M in sacks (13) last season, and Dat Nguyen (94 tackles) was a surprise success inside. Larry Walker II, the fastest of the A&M linebackers with a 4.38 40, lost his starting job to Warrick Holdman but has since won it back. A legitimate track star, free safety Toya Jones can run with any opposing receiver.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Kyle Bryant, named after A&M's Kyle Field, was on the verge of losing his starting job last season but regained his touch. Shane Lechler, the second-string quarterback, takes over at punter.

RECRUITING: The Aggies had an off-year by their standards, but they still had a nice haul, with offensive lineman Chris Valletta likely to see some time early, and junior college transfer Eric Jennings leading a collection of six defensive backs. Chris Cole leads a solid, and needed group of wide receivers. But other than Steven Young, A&M was shut out of its pursuit of defensive linemen to serve as reinforcements this season.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: B. Stewart (Jr., 6-3, 210) Shane Lechler (Fr., 6-3, 220)
RB: Sirr Parker (So., 6-0, 180) Eric Bernard (So., 5-10, 190)
RB: D. Hardeman (So., 5-11, 225) Marc Broyles (So., 5-11, 235)
WR: Albert Connell (Sr., 6-2, 180)* Leroy Hodges (Fr., 6-3, 200)
WR: Aaron Oliver (So., 6-2, 191) Donte Hawkins (So., 6-1, 185)
TE: Derrick Spiller (So., 6-3, 227) Daniel Campbell (So., 6-6, 252)
LT: Chris Ruhman (Jr., 6-6, 290)* Rex Tucker (So., 6-6, 255)
LG: Steve McKinney (Jr., 6-5, 274)* Jake Horn (So., 6-4, 274)
C: Koby Hackradt (Jr., 6-5, 271)* David Vazquez (So., 6-3, 275)
RG: Calvin Collins (Sr., 6-3, 290)* Seimisi Heimuli (Fr., 6-3, 205)
RT: Cameron Spikes (So., 6-5, 292) Brandon Houston (So., 6-6, 292)

DEFENSE

DE: Brandon Mitchell (Sr., 6-4, 275)* Brad Crowley (Jr., 6-5, 258)
NT: Edward Jasper (Sr., 6-4, 291)* Zerick Rollins (Jr., 6-3, 255)
DE: Pat Williams (Sr., 6-4, 275)* Marcus Heard (Jr., 6-3, 289)
LB: Warrick Holdman (So., 6-1, 223) Phillip Meyers (Jr., 6-1, 216)
LB: Larry Walker II (Sr., 6-2, 231)* Trent Driver (Jr., 6-3, 222)
LB: Dat Nguyen (So., 6-1, 213)* Quinton Brown (Jr., 6-2, 226)
LB: Keith Mitchell (Sr., 6-3, 223)* Jimmie Irby (Sr., 6-2, 225)
CB: Andre Williams (Sr., 5-9, 176) Shun Horn (So., 5-11, 182)
CB: Donovan Greer (Sr., 5-10, 178)* Justin Lucas (So., 6-0, 185)
SS: Typpail McMullen (Sr., 6-2, 197)* Rich Coady (So., 6-1, 198)
FS: Toya Jones (So., 6-3, 190) Sherrod Wyatt (Sr., 6-2, 189)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Kyle Bryant (Jr., 5-7, 180)* Manoli Venetoulis (Jr., 5-8, 178)
P: Shane Lechler (Fr., 6-3, 220) Bill Johnston (Jr., 6-0, 169)
(* denotes returning starter)

Jonathan Feigen covers Big 12 football for the Houston Chronicle.

TEXAS TECH



BYRON HANSPARD-RB

ROBERT SEALE/SPORT USA

By MARK WANGRIN

Over the years, Spike Dykes has set his jaw, stuck out his chest and scheduled the likes of Ohio State, Nebraska, Penn State and Miami (Fla.). Did so willingly. Purposefully. Gleefully.

OK, not gleefully. "I guess I'm an idiot, but I still feel that's helped us," the self-effacing Red Raiders coach said. "It's picked up the whole program a notch."

As the Tech program has grown stronger, Dykes no longer should feel compelled to schedule those heavyweights. He now has someone to do it for him—the Big 12 Conference.

The Red Raiders, coming off a 9-3 season (their best since 1989) and a Copper Bowl triumph over Air Force, open at Kansas State, play at Georgia three weeks later and then hit a stretch that includes consecutive games against Kansas, Nebraska, Texas A&M and Texas.

OFFENSE: Luckily for Dykes, he starts with an offense that just might be up to the task of handling the defenses of those top-rated opponents. Eight starters return from a group that averaged 386 yards and 30 points per game in 1995.

Not only will tailback Byron Hanspard return but, the Southwest Conference's final rushing champion will be making his cuts behind four familiar back-sides, including that of left tackle Ben Kaufman (6-foot-5, 285 pounds). Last season, Hanspard ran for 1,374 yards and 11 touchdowns while averaging a superb 5.5 yards per carry. He ran wild past Air Force in the bowl win, gaining 260 yards on 24 carries and scoring four touchdowns. Hanspard also led the Red Raiders in pass receptions with 35.

Quarterback Zebbie Lethridge went an SWC-record 211 pass attempts without an interception last season and has five of his top six receivers back.

Dykes must replace a fullback, guard and tight end, but just as big a loss was the defection of offensive coordinator Dick Winder to Oklahoma.

Dykes didn't have to search far for the successor—his son Rick, the Red Raiders' running backs coach, takes over the same job.

DEFENSE: While the younger Dykes merely has to figure out how to use the outstanding talent at his disposal, defensive counterpart John Goodner must find some first. Gone are a pair of All Americans—linebacker Zach Thomas and monster back Marcus Coleman—plus another starting linebacker and both cornerbacks.

"There'll be a lot of praying meetings on defense," Dykes said.

Some of them have already been answered. End Tony Daniels has recovered from a non-football related knee injury that kept him out last season, which allows Anthony Armour (55 tackles) to move back to inside linebacker. Montae Reagor (35 tackles) returns at the other end after starting as a freshman, providing Tech with a solid front.

Tech needs Eric Butler to replace Thomas and either Jody Brown or Duane Price to step in for Coleman. The Red Raiders may have to wait until the freshmen arrive to answer the cornerback questions.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Junior Tony Rogers was accurate on long field-goal attempts (9 of 10 from 40-49 yards in his career) but hit only 5 of 8 between 30-39 yards. He'll get a challenge from sophomore Jaret Greaser. The search to replace punter Brad Cade (40.7 yards per kick) starts from scratch—Tech has no scholarship punters on the roster. Rogers, though, averaged 43.5 yards per punt as a senior in high school. Junior punt returner Dane Johnson was eighth in the nation last season (14.3 yards per return).

RECRUITING: Tech went heavy on defensive backs, signing seven among its 20 recruits, and all will have an opportunity to play immediately. Shaun Carr of Sweetwater, Texas, and Ricky Hunter of Dallas Kimball, also a highly regarded running back, head the list of potential cornerbacks.

Mark Wangrin covers the Big 12 for the Austin American-Statesman.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Zebbie Lethridge (Sr., 6-0, 190)*	Sone Cavazos (Sr., 6-1, 212)
RB: Byron Hanspard (Jr., 6-0, 190)*	Adrian Ervin (Sr., 5-11, 194)
RB: Ryan Jones (Sr., 6-2, 226)	Sammy Morris (Fr., 6-0, 203)
WR: Field Scovell (Sr., 5-11, 184)*	Stacy Mitchell (Jr., 5-5, 150)*
WR: Donnie Hart (So., 6-0, 194)	Sheldon Bass (So., 5-10, 173)
TE: Brad Spinks (Sr., 6-4, 224)	P.J. Jasin (Sr., 6-2, 241)
LT: Ben Kaufman (Sr., 6-5, 285)*	Nick Lee (So., 6-6, 290)
LG: Casey Jones (Sr., 6-5, 279)*	Jayson Hansen (Jr., 6-4, 300)
C: Kevin Ward (Sr., 6-1, 270)*	Jay Pugh (Jr., 6-3, 283)
RG: Shane Dunn (Sr., 6-3, 283)	Erik Carruth (So., 6-3, 278)
RT: Chris Whitney (Jr., 6-3, 296)	Lynn Scherler (Sr., 6-4, 291)*

DEFENSE

DE: Montae Reagor (So., 6-1, 246)*	Taurus Rucker (Fr., 6-0, 248)
DT: Corey Chandler (Jr., 6-5, 259)*	Jerome Lang (Sr., 6-3, 271)
NT: Cody McGuire (Jr., 6-5, 269)*	Cody Patton (So., 6-5, 277)
DE: Allen Wallace (Jr., 6-0, 232)	Tony Daniels (Jr., 6-5, 261)
LB: Robert Johnson (Sr., 5-11, 188)*	Ty Ardoin (So., 6-0, 187)
LB: Eric Butler (Jr., 6-1, 250)	Ryan Donahue (Sr., 6-2, 225)
LB: Anthony Armour (Sr., 6-1, 214)*	Adrian Roland (Sr., 6-0, 222)
CB: Corey Turner (So., 5-8, 163)	Duane Price (Jr., 5-11, 166)
CB: Oscar Solis (Fr., 5-7, 161)	Tony Darden (Jr., 6-0, 186)
SS: Jody Brown (Sr., 6-0, 200)	R. Cartwright (So., 6-1, 192)
FS: Dane Johnson (Jr., 5-11, 181)*	Reagan Bownds (So., 5-9, 179)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Tony Rogers (Jr., 5-11, 184)*	Jaret Greaser (So., 5-11, 184)
P: J. Hernandez (So., 5-11, 185)	Brian Roberson (Fr., 6-2, 180)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Spike Dykes, 10th year, 56-47-1

'95 RECORD: 9-3 (5-2 SWC)

FINAL RANKINGS: No. 23 AP, No. 20 USA

Today/CNN

HOME STADIUM: Jones Stadium, Lubbock, Texas (50,500, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 15 (8 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Zach Thomas, LB (1st-team All America); Marcus Coleman, DB (1st-team All-SWC); Shawn Banks, DL

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Zebbie Lethridge, Jr., 136-281-1,885

yards, 13 TDs, 6 INTs

RUSHING: Byron Hanspard, Jr., 248 carries, 1,374 yards, 11 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Hanspard, 35, 7 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Hanspard, 474

TACKLES: Robert Johnson, Sr., 65

SACKS: Anthony Armour, Sr., and Montae Reagor, Soph., 3 each

INTERCEPTIONS: R. Johnson, Sr., and Dane Johnson, Jr., 4 each

PUNTING: None

KICKING: Tony Rogers, Jr., 11-17 FGs (long); 37-37 PATs

SCORING: Hanspard, 108 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	..at Kansas State
Sept. 7	..OKLAHOMA STATE*
Sept. 21	..at Georgia
Sept. 28	..UTAH STATE
Oct. 5	..BAYLOR (HC)
Oct. 12	..at Kansas
Oct. 19	..NEBRASKA
Oct. 26	..at Texas A&M
Nov. 9	..TEXAS
Nov. 16	..SW LOUISIANA
Nov. 23	..at Oklahoma

* Cotton Bowl, Dallas

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 9	..at Penn State; L, 24-23
Sept. 16	..MISSOURI; W, 41-14
Sept. 30	..at Baylor; L, 9-7
Oct. 7	..TEXAS A&M; W, 14-7
Oct. 14	..ARKANSAS STATE; W, 63-25
Oct. 21	..RICE; W, 31-26
Oct. 28	..at New Mexico; W, 34-7
Nov. 4	..at Texas; L, 48-7
Nov. 11	..TCU; W, 27-8
Nov. 18	..at SMU; W, 45-14
Nov. 25	..at Houston; W, 38-26
Dec. 27	..vs. Air Force in Copper Bowl; W, 55-41

MILESTONES

- Byron Hanspard needs 1,410 yards to move into second on Tech's career rushing list.
- With 85 completions, Zebbie Lethridge will rank third on the Red Raiders' all-time completion list.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Rebuild linebacking corps and cornerback spots.
- Have offensive line live up to potential.
- Offense, particularly Zebbie Lethridge, continues to limit turnovers.

6 PAC-10

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

JAKE PLUMMER, QB, ARIZONA STATE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

DARRELL RUSSELL, DT, USC

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR:

LACOREY COLLINS, WR, OREGON

SUN DEVILS 'SNAKE'-BITTEN

Arizona State head coach Bruce Snyder knew he had someone special back in 1993 when true freshman quarterback Jake "The Snake" Plummer was suddenly promoted, without any warning, to the team's starting role during halftime of a mid-season conference game against Oregon.

"What I was impressed with, not from just that game but with every game since then, was how he took control of the team as if it was the natural thing for him," Snyder said. "If you've ever dealt with an 18-year-old, you sometimes wonder if half of what you're saying is getting through. He's terrific in terms of his maturity."

It didn't hurt Plummer's cause that his first collegiate completion was a 78-yard touchdown pass. Twenty-eight straight starts, 5,973 yards and 40 touchdowns later, the 6-foot-2, 190-pound senior enters the 1996 season on the verge of breaking every major ASU record

for his position. Everything is in place, according to Snyder, for Plummer to show the rest of the country that he's as worthy of Heisman consideration as Tennessee's Peyton Manning and Florida's Danny Wuerffel.

"I have a strong belief that he is the best quarterback west of the Mississippi, and I've seen all of those guys," Snyder said.

Like Manning, Plummer has a rifle for an arm and boasts an exceptional ability to read his receivers, especially when the pocket crumbles.

"Jake does a great job when a play breaks down," Snyder said. "He has a great ability to make something out of nothing. I don't know of any coach who can teach that. [Quarterbacks] either have that kind of ability or they don't."

"It's fun. You test yourself," Plummer explained. "You're seeing what you have and what you're made of when you have to improvise."

The Sun Devils need every ounce of his confidence and imagination this season, as Plummer and his teammates embark on a tough schedule that includes home dates with Nebraska and USC and games at UCLA and Arizona. Snyder, however, isn't the least bit worried about how Plummer will handle it all.

"He's an optimist, and he believes in coaches to the point where if a coach says, 'We're going to go out and win this game'—even though the odds might really be big—in his heart, he believes it," Snyder said.

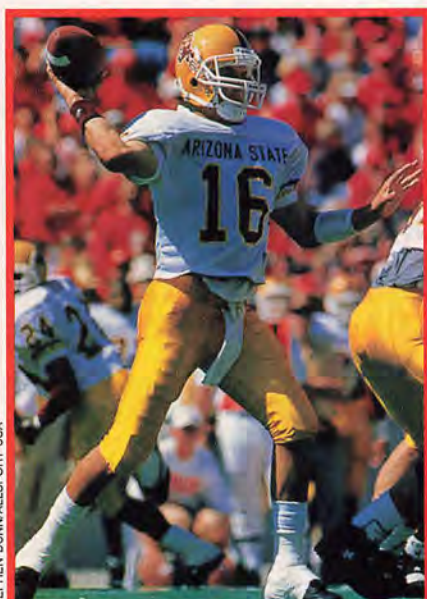
It should come as no joke, then, when Plummer looks ahead to Jan. 1 in Pasadena.

"It's a definite goal—not just making the Rose Bowl, but winning it," he said.

Thanks to Plummer, that's a realistic goal and not some mirage brought on by a lengthy desert drought.

"When we do whatever we do, Jake will be in the front," Snyder said, "not because he wants to be noticed or because someone had to tell him to do that, but because he did that same kind of thing the first day he arrived on campus."

—Bill Howard



STEPHEN DUNN/ALLSPORT USA

Pac-10 foes have had a devil of a time trying to contain Arizona State quarterback Jake Plummer.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. USC
2. ARIZONA STATE
3. WASHINGTON
4. OREGON
5. UCLA
6. STANFORD
7. ARIZONA
8. CALIFORNIA
9. WASHINGTON STATE
10. OREGON STATE

ALL-PAC-10 TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
QB	JAKE PLUMMER	Sr.	6-2/190	ARIZONA STATE
RB	RASHAAN SHEHEE	Jr.	5-11/200	WASHINGTON
RB	DELOM WASHINGTON	Jr.	5-11/190	USC
WR	KEITH POOLE	Sr.	6-2/185	ARIZONA STATE
WR	RICHARD DICE	Sr.	6-2/216	ARIZONA
TE	TONY GONZALEZ	Jr.	6-6/235	CALIFORNIA
OL	JUAN ROQUE	Sr.	6-8/319	ARIZONA STATE
OL	TARIK GLENN	Sr.	6-6/345	CALIFORNIA
OL	BRAD BADGER	Sr.	6-4/280	STANFORD
OL	SCOTT SANDERSON	Sr.	6-7/292	WASHINGTON ST.
OL	BENJI OLSON	Soph.	6-4/300	WASHINGTON

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
DL	CARL HANSEN	Jr.	6-5/265	STANFORD
DL	DARRELL RUSSELL	Jr.	6-4/290	USC
DL	JOE SALAVE'A	Sr.	6-4/276	ARIZONA
DL	BRANDON WHITING	Jr.	6-3/280	CALIFORNIA
LB	INK ALEAGA	Sr.	6-2/225	WASHINGTON
LB	JAMES DARLING	Sr.	6-1/245	WASHINGTON ST.
LB	DERRICK BARNES	Sr.	6-1/251	OREGON
DB	DAYLON MCCUTCHEON	Soph.	5-11/175	USC
DB	MITCHELL FREEDMAN	Soph.	6-0/192	ARIZONA STATE
DB	KENNY WHEATON	Jr.	5-9/191	OREGON
DB	ABDUL MCCULLOUGH	Sr.	6-0/202	UCLA

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
PK	RYAN LONGWELL	Sr.	6-0/180	CALIFORNIA
P	CHRIS SAILER	Soph.	5-10/188	UCLA
RS	DAMON DUNN	Jr.	5-10/175	STANFORD

3 BIGGEST GAMES

***1. PENN STATE VS. USC, AUG. 25:** TWO OF THE LAST THREE WINNERS OF THE KICKOFF CLASSIC (FLORIDA STATE IN '93, NEBRASKA IN '94) WENT ON TO WIN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. LAST YEAR'S WINNER (OHIO STATE) WASN'T FAR OFF, EITHER.

2. USC AT ARIZONA STATE, OCT. 19: SUN DEVIL STADIUM SHOULD BE FILLED, AND IT WON'T TAKE THE THE FIESTA BOWL, DALLAS COWBOYS OR THE SUPER BOWL TO DO IT.

3. USC AT UCLA, NOV. 23: THE TROJANS SAVED THEIR TWO BIGGEST NEMESSES FOR LAST. CROSS-TOWN RIVAL UCLA HAS BEATEN THEM FIVE STRAIGHT AND NOTRE DAME (NOV. 30 AT USC) IS UNBEATEN IN THEIR LAST 13 MEETINGS.

*KICKOFF CLASSIC AT EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

ARIZONA



GARY TAYLOR-RB

By JONATHAN DALTON

Arizona witnessed the end of an era last season as the last remnants of "Desert Swarm," the dominating defense that lifted the Wildcats out of Pac-10 obscurity and into the national limelight, played their final collegiate games.

Replacing defensive stalwarts Tedy Bruschi, Chuck Osborne and Brandon Sanders is one of the many chores that Arizona coach Dick Tomey is facing in his 10th season in the Old Pueblo. Tomey also was forced to address holes in his depth chart and coaching staff during the offseason.

His greatest coup of the spring was landing Alabama's Homer Smith, regarded as one of the most wily offensive coordinators in the nation. Duane Akina, the Wildcats associate head coach and former offensive coordinator, will remain on board as the secondary coach.

In his rebuilding effort, Tomey turned to another "genius," as well—former San Francisco 49ers and Stanford head coach Bill Walsh. Walsh examined Arizona's offense over the summer and offered his suggestions to improve a unit that has been lackluster the past few seasons.

OFFENSE: All the scrutiny in the world won't help Arizona if several gaps aren't filled. The most glaring weakness is at quarterback, where Dan White is gone. Though White's play was inconsistent, he was durable, leaving few snaps for junior Brady Batten and redshirt freshman Keith Smith. Both may find themselves fighting with freshman Ortege Jenkins for the starting position.

The new quarterback will have returnees Richard Dice, who pulled down 25 passes for 443 yards and six touchdowns in just six games, and Rodney Williams, who led the Wildcats with 46 receptions for 587 yards, as his primary targets.

Still, running the ball has always been Arizona's forte, and this season is no exception as senior Gary Taylor (714 yards) and diminutive

junior Kevin Schmittke (203 yards) return. Freshman Leon Callen, a *Parade* All America, will compete immediately for a starting role.

DEFENSE: Though the last traces to "Desert Swarm" are gone, the eagle-flex defense remains. Whether Arizona's success was due to the players or the system will be determined this year.

Returning senior defensive tackle Joe Salavéa and senior defensive end Van Tuinei are expected to step into the spotlight. Salavéa recorded 9.5 tackles for a loss last year, while the 25-year-old Tuinei ranked third on the team with 3.5 sacks.

Junior inside linebacker Chester Burnett returns as Arizona's leading returning statistical leader (58 tackles, 3.5 tackles for a loss, a sack and a fumble recovery in 1995). Junior cornerback Kelly Malveaux, a second-team All-Pac-10 selection, heads a secondary bolstered by the signing of JUCO safety Paul Shields.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Fifth-year senior punter Matt Peyton leads what turned into one of the country's best punting units last season. Peyton averaged 40.6 yards per punt and the combination of his hang time, rugby-style running line drive pooch punts and solid coverage downfield helped the Wildcats post the nation's 11th-best net punting average (38.8 yards per kick).

Sophomore kicker Paul McDonald will step in as the Wildcats' placekicker with the departure of Jon Prasuhn, who tied a school record last season with a 57-yard field goal against Pacific.

RECRUITING: No matter how Arizona's recruiting class of 1996 performs, it will be remembered for continuing the Wildcats' tradition of signing identical twins. Bradford and Stafford Glover, 6-foot-2, 225-pound linebackers from El Paso (Texas) Irvin High School, follow in the tradition of Chris and Kevin Singleton and Gary and Cary Taylor.

Arizona also inked another noted linebacker, Idris Haroon (6-2, 200), a *SuperPrep* All America from Houston's Hastings High.

Jonathan Dalton is a free-lance writer based in Mesa, Arizona.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Brady Batten (Jr., 6-2, 206)	Keith Smith (Fr., 5-10, 185)
RB: Gary Taylor (Sr., 5-11, 194)*	Kevin Schmittke (Jr., 5-9, 198)
RB: Charles Myles (Jr., 5-11, 233)*	Sadiki Johnson (Jr., 5-10, 230)
WR: Rodney Williams (Jr., 6-1, 180)	Sy'Gerry Cook (Jr., 6-2, 200)
WR: Richard Dice (Sr., 6-2, 216)*	Ron Holmes (So., 5-10, 192)
TE: Mike Lucky (So., 6-6, 251)	Mike Metzler (Sr., 6-4, 215)*
LT: Ian McCutcheon (Sr., 6-4, 282)*	Jose Portilla (Jr., 6-6, 300)
LG: Frank Middleton (Sr., 6-5, 365)*	Tevete Usu (Sr., 6-3, 200)
C: Wayne Wyatt (Sr., 6-3, 296)*	Mike Mannelly (Jr., 6-2, 275)
RG: David Watson (Sr., 6-5, 297)*	Rusty James (Jr., 6-3, 260)
RT: Willie Walker (Sr., 6-2, 285)*	Ryan Turley (Jr., 6-7, 300)

DEFENSE

DE: Van Tuinei (Sr., 6-4, 260)*	Bryan Mulvana (So., 6-1, 217)
DE: Daniel Greer (So., 6-2, 250)	Cai McCray (Sr., 6-3, 245)
DE: Joe Salavéa (Sr., 6-4, 276)*	Steve Tafua (Jr., 6-4, 280)
DE: Chato Jackson (Sr., 6-0, 235)	James Lewis (Fr., 6-5, 265)
LB: Armon Williams (Jr., 6-1, 223)	Jimmy Spratte (Jr., 6-2, 235)*
LB: Chester Burnett (Jr., 5-10, 219)*	Marcus Bell (Fr., 6-2, 210)
LB: Mike Szalauko (Jr., 6-3, 230)	DaShon Polk (So., 6-3, 210)
CB: Kelly Malveaux (Jr., 5-9, 176)*	Calvin Hunter (Fr., 5-11, 170)
CB: Rashee Johnson (Sr., 6-0, 180)*	S. Harrington (Jr., 5-10, 150)
SS: Mikal Smith (So., 5-10, 175)	Chuck Rich (Jr., 5-10, 190)
FS: Raffell Jones (So., 5-10, 180)	David Fipp (Jr., 5-11, 180)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Mark McDonald (So., 6-1, 183)	Matt Peyton (Sr., 6-1, 184)
P: Matt Peyton (Sr., 6-1, 184)*	Kevin Schmittke (Jr., 5-9, 198)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Dick Tomey, 10th year, 60-40-4; 123-86-7 overall

'95 RECORD: 6-5 (4-4 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Arizona Stadium, Tucson, Ariz. (56,167, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (9 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Tedy Bruschi, DL (1st-team All America); Chuck Osborne, DL (1st-team All-Pac-10); Brandon Sanders, DB (1st-team All-Pac-10)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Brady Batten, Jr., 26-60-362 yards, 3 TDs, 2 INTs

RUSHING: Gary Taylor, Sr., 177 carries, 714 yards, 2 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Rodney Williams, Jr., 46, 4 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Williams, 587

TACKLES: Chester Burnett, Jr., 58

SACKS: Van Tuinei, Sr., 3.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Three with one each

PUNTING: Matt Peyton, Sr., 40.6 avg.

KICKING: Peyton, 0-1 FGs

SCORING: Richard Dice, Sr., 36 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	.UTEP
Sept. 7	.at Iowa
Sept. 14	.ILLINOIS
Sept. 21	.at Washington
Oct. 5	.WASHINGTON STATE
Oct. 12	.at USC
Oct. 26	.OREGON STATE
Nov. 2	.at California
Nov. 9	.at Oregon
Nov. 16	.UCLA (HC)
Nov. 23	.ARIZONA STATE

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	.PACIFIC; W, 41-9
Sept. 7	.GEORGIA TECH; W, 20-19
Sept. 16	.at Illinois; L, 9-7
Sept. 23	.USC; L, 31-10
Sept. 30	.CALIFORNIA; W, 20-15
Oct. 14	.at UCLA; L, 17-10
Oct. 21	.WASHINGTON; L, 31-17
Oct. 28	.at Washington State; W, 24-14
Nov. 4	.at Oregon State; W, 14-9
Nov. 11	.OREGON; L, 17-13
Nov. 24	.at Arizona State; W, 31-28

MILESTONE

■ Arizona is the only Pac-10 team never to make a Rose Bowl appearance. The Wildcats joined the conference in 1978.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- The Wildcats offense, particularly through the air, must perform.
- Arizona's eagle-flex defense must stop the run better. Last season, the Wildcats surrendered four 100-yard rushing games after not allowing anyone to run for more than 100 yards since 1992.
- Run the ball with more authority. The Wildcats were last in the Pac-10 with only seven rushing TDs last season.



ARIZONA STATE

FACTS

COACH: Bruce Snyder, 5th year, 21-23; 89-84-5 overall

'95 RECORD: 6-5 (4-4 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Ariz. (73,656, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS 21 (10 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Chris Hopkins, RB; Ryan Wood, RB; Mike Landridge, DL; Justin Dragoo, LB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Jake Plummer, Sr., 173-301-2,222 yards, 17 TDs, 9 INTs

RUSHING: Michael Martin, Jr., 138 carries, 566 yards

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Keith Poole, Sr., 55, 7 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Poole, 1,036

TACKLES: Scott Von der Ahe, Sr., 92

SACKS: Jason Reynolds, Jr., 6

INTERCEPTIONS: Jason Simmons, Jr., 2

PUNTING: Lance Anderson, Sr., 39.7 avg.

KICKING: Robert Nycz, Jr., 11-16 FGs (long 48);

31-32 PATs

SCORING: Nycz, 64 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 . . . WASHINGTON

Sept. 14 . . . NORTH TEXAS

Sept. 21 . . . NEBRASKA

Sept. 28 . . . OREGON

Oct. 5 . . . BOISE STATE

Oct. 12 . . . at UCLA

Oct. 19 . . . USC (HC)

Oct. 26 . . . at Stanford

Nov. 2 . . . at Oregon State

Nov. 9 . . . CALIFORNIA

Nov. 23 . . . at Arizona

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . . at Washington; L, 23-20

Sept. 9 . . . UTEP; W, 45-20

Sept. 16 . . . at Nebraska; L, 77-28

Sept. 23 . . . OREGON STATE; W, 20-11

Sept. 30 . . . at USC; L, 31-0

Oct. 7 . . . STANFORD; L, 30-28

Oct. 14 . . . BRIGHAM YOUNG; W, 29-21

Oct. 28 . . . at Oregon; W, 35-24

Nov. 4 . . . UCLA; W, 37-33

Nov. 11 . . . at California; W, 38-29

Nov. 24 . . . ARIZONA; L, 31-28

MILESTONE

■ A postseason berth would be Arizona State's first since it defeated Air Force in the 1987 Freedom Bowl under current Ohio State coach John Cooper.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Keeping QB Jake Plummer and WR Keith Poole healthy.
- Applying more pressure on opposing quarterbacks. ASU racked up only 18 sacks in 1995.
- Surviving an early schedule which includes September games vs. Washington, Nebraska and Oregon.

By JONATHAN DALTON

Seven minutes is all that separated Arizona State last season from its first bowl bid in eight years. The Sun Devils held a 28-14 lead with seven minutes to play, only to watch arch-rival Arizona capitalize on a fumble and a key penalty to rally for a 31-28 victory and end Arizona State's hopes of a trip to the Independence Bowl.

Of course, close calls were nothing new to the Sun Devils, who lost to Washington and Stanford by a combined five points. Arizona State coach Bruce Snyder hopes the experience will help lead the Sun Devils to their first postseason appearance since 1987.

"If we had lost a lot of players, it wouldn't have done us much good," said Snyder, who returns 21 of 24 starters from last year's 6-5 team. "But we have a lot of players returning who were in those games, so I've got to believe that will be significant."

The key to the Sun Devils' success should be the senior tandem of quarterback Jake Plummer and Keith Poole, who connected on 55 passes for 1,036 yards and seven touchdowns a year ago. The prolific pair will be tested by a difficult early-season schedule, which includes September home dates with Washington, Nebraska and Oregon.

OFFENSE: Plummer, who has started Arizona State's last 28 games, should become ASU's leader in passing yards, attempts and completions by the time this season is done. "He's the best of the West," Snyder said.

Poole continues to be Plummer's favorite target, though highly recruited sophomore Kenny Mitchell (14 catches, 205 yards) performed well late in the season. Chris Hopkins, the Sun Devils' leading rusher last year, is gone, but juniors Michael Martin (566 yards, 5 TDs) and Terry Battle (474 yards, 3 TDs) return.

The Sun Devils' offense will be helped by an experienced offensive line, anchored by 6-foot-8, 319-pound senior tackle Juan Roque—a bona fide candidate for the Lombardi and Outland trophies.



JAKE PLUMMER-QB

DEFENSE: Linebacker Scott Von der Ahe (92 tackles) and sophomore free safety Mitchell Freedman (80 tackles), dubbed "Fright Night" for his love of the big hit, led a veteran unit that allowed 30 points and 426.6 yards per game, numbers skewed by Nebraska's 77-point, 686-yard outburst last September in Lincoln.

The Sun Devils matured as the season continued, however, building a plus-12 turnover ratio over the final five games, four of them victories. But the defensive front totaled only 15 sacks (the Sun Devils had 18 overall), a figure senior returning starters Brent Burnstein, Shawn Swayda and Jason Reynolds must improve upon.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Punter Lance Anderson was one of the conference's most durable, launching 61 punts and averaging 39.7 yards. Kicker Robert Nycz connected on 11 field goals in 16 attempts, with all 11 inside 49 yards.

Marcus Williams, who regularly booted 50-plus-yard field goals for nearby Tempe McClintock High, took over the kickoff chores midway through the season and repeatedly forced Sun Devils' opponents to work with a long field.

RECRUITING: For the first time since his arrival in Tempe, Snyder made the area high schools—not California—his recruiting priority. The benefits were immediately apparent, as Snyder landed Ryan Kealy and Tariq McDonald, a quarterback-receiver combo from Phoenix St. Mary's. Kealy threw a state-record 41 touchdowns as a senior, with McDonald accounting for 1,192 yards and 20 scores.

"One of the hardest things to do is recruit the local area when you're losing," Snyder said. "These kids see you every day. They see your moles, your pockmarks and pimples. While with schools at a distance, they don't see all the negatives."

Jonathan Dalton is a free-lance writer based in Mesa, Arizona.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Jake Plummer (Sr., 6-2, 190)*	Jason Verdugo (Jr., 6-1, 191)
RB: Michael Martin (Jr., 6-1, 209)	Terry Battle (Jr., 5-11, 195)
RB: Jeff Paulk (So., 6-1, 245)	Kevin Tommasini (So., 6-0, 210)
WR: Keith Poole (Sr., 6-2, 185)*	Derrick Charles (Sr., 5-10, 168)
WR: Isaiah Mustafa (Sr., 6-4, 216)*	Kenny Mitchell (So., 6-3, 198)
TE: Steve Bush (Sr., 6-3, 258)*	Devin Kendall (Sr., 6-2, 236)
LT: Juan Roque (Sr., 6-8, 319)*	Troy Davis (So., 6-5, 261)
LG: Kyle Murphy (Jr., 6-4, 298)*	Mike Barnes (So., 6-2, 277)
C: Kirk Robertson (Sr., 6-5, 305)*	Grey Ruegamer (So., 6-5, 287)*
RG: Pat Thompson (Sr., 6-2, 336)*	Glen Gable (Jr., 6-5, 295)*
RT: Grey Ruegamer (So., 6-5, 287)	Anthony Jones (Jr., 6-6, 310)

DEFENSE

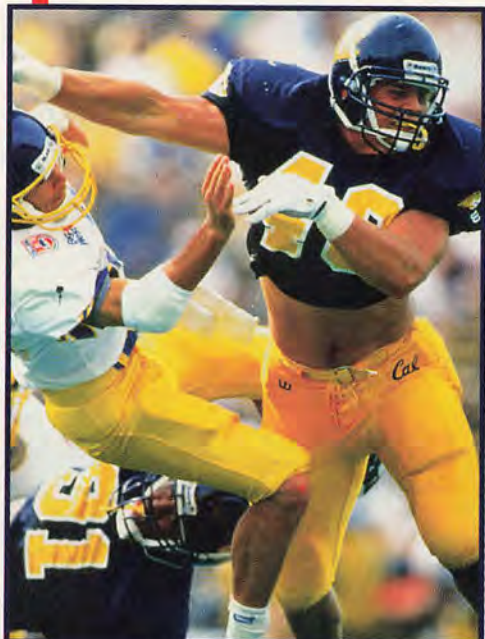
DE: Brent Burnstein (Sr., 6-8, 270)*	Albrey Battle (So., 6-3, 286)
DT: Shawn Swayda (Sr., 6-5, 279)*	Vince Amey (Jr., 6-3, 283)
DT: Jason Reynolds (Sr., 6-2, 286)*	Ryan Reilly (Fr., 6-2, 266)
DE: Malchi Crawford (Jr., 6-4, 272)*	Derrick Ford (So., 6-1, 242)
LB: Derek Smith (Sr., 6-2, 232)*	Larry Johnson (So., 6-1, 221)
LB: Scott Von der Ahe (Sr., 6-0, 247)*	Chris Finn (Sr., 6-4, 225)
LB: Pat Tillman (Jr., 5-11, 200)	James Kelly (Fr., 6-1, 237)
CB: Jason Simmons (Jr., 5-10, 175)*	Lamont Morgan (So., 6-0, 187)
CB: Traivon Johnson (Sr., 6-0, 194)	Marcus Soward (Sr., 5-11, 175)
SS: D. Richardson (Jr., 6-2, 210)*	Harlen Rashada (Sr., 6-2, 204)
FS: M. Freedman (So., 6-0, 192)*	Thomas Simmons (Jr., 5-11, 183)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Robert Nycz (Jr., 5-11, 194)*	Marcus Williams (Jr., 6-1, 215)
P: Lance Anderson (Sr., 6-1, 215)*	Marcus Williams (Jr., 6-1, 215)

(* denotes returning starter)

CALIFORNIA



ANDY JACOBS-DE

OTTO GREIF/ALSPORT USA

By LYLE SPENCER

How does Air Mariucci sound? OK, then how about Mariucci's Band? Both have exciting rings to California enthusiasts weary of the sounds of fall silence and familiar with the history of the Golden Bears' energetic and innovative new head coach, Steve Mariucci.

As one of the masterminds behind the Green Bay Packers' sophisticated offensive attack and quarterback Brett Favre's emergence as a major star, Mariucci's reputation blossomed last year. Meanwhile, Cal was suffering through a 3-8 season that ended Keith Gilbertson's four-year run at 20-26.

Mariucci's return to campus life—he left Cal as its offensive coordinator four years ago—brings him into contact with a strong young passer in the Favre mold, senior Pat Barnes. Mariucci plans to balance his passing game with a respectable rushing attack behind two of the Pac-10's best tackles, Tarik Glenn (6-foot-6, 345 pounds) and Todd Stewart (6-6, 290). Tailbacks Tarik Smith and Brandon Willis are burners in the 4.4-second range in the 40, capable of busting long runs at any moment.

The big challenge for Mariucci and new defensive coordinator Tom Holmoe will be filling the voids left by Cal's two premium defenders, Regan Upshaw and Duane Clemons (a combined 20 sacks last season). Both pass-rushing demons departed after their junior year for the promise of NFL riches.

"People may talk about rebuilding, but that's not how we're approaching this season," Mariucci said. "We'd like to find a way to get to a bowl game and give the program a jump start."

OFFENSE: Barnes mirrored the Cal offense in 1995 with his inconsistency. Blessed with NFL size (6-4, 210) and an NFL arm, the senior should benefit immensely from Mariucci's vast experience. Before gaining celebrity in Green Bay, Mariucci molded Mike Pawlawski into the Pac-10 Player of the Year in 1991, and his tools were no better than Barnes'.

With a full year behind him, and Mariucci's West Coast offense in his hands, Barnes figures to blossom with veteran Na'il Benjamin leading a gifted corps of receivers. After settling down, Barnes threw only one interception to go with seven TD passes in his last three games, and his 2,685 yards in the air was third on Cal's all-time single-season list.

Barnes will be surrounded by familiar faces since 19 of Cal's 22 top offensive players are back. **DEFENSE:** It will rise and fall on its ability to contain the run. The Bears were 82nd nationally in that category (193.8 ypg.) last fall. Experience could be a problem, with only four of the top 30 players on the defensive depth chart being seniors.

Leadership up front must come from senior end Andy Jacobs (13.5 tackles for a loss, four sacks) and tackles Brandon Whiting and Brent Jones. The Bears are thin in experienced linebackers, but junior Rasheed Hibler can hit and the coaching staff is high on both junior André Rhodes and red-shirt freshman Matt Beck.

The secondary is led by senior corner Kevin Devine, a 4.45 burner, and a pair of tough safeties in Marlon McWilson and Marquis Smith.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Cal is capable of stealing a game or two with senior kicker Ryan Longwell, who drilled 12 of 17 field-goal attempts. Two of his five misses were blocked and another was a 57-yarder that struck an upright. Benjamin's 9.3-yard career punt return average is the best at Cal in 20 years.

RECRUITING: Looking for future replacements for Barnes, the Bears added a couple of impressive California high school arms in Terry Hess and Brad Steele. Hess had orally committed to Oklahoma but was persuaded by Mariucci instead to come north to the Bay Area to operate a pro-style offense.

Cal's most promising defensive recruit is a 6-5, 250-pound end/linebacker from Oakland, Thabiti Lockhart—who originally pledged to Colorado before deciding to stay close to home.

Lyle Spencer is a columnist for the Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Pat Barnes (Sr., 6-4, 210)*	Ziv Gottlieb (Sr., 6-2, 205)
RB: Tarik Smith (Jr., 6-0, 190)	Brandon Willis (So., 5-9, 195)
RB: Johnny Tavake (Sr., 6-0, 230)*	Brent Malli (Sr., 6-1, 230)
WR: Bobby Shaw (Jr., 6-1, 180)*	Dameane Douglas (So., 6-0, 180)
WR: Na'il Benjamin (Sr., 5-11, 185)*	Kofi Narley (Jr., 6-2, 195)
TE: Tony Gonzalez (Jr., 6-6, 235)*	Sean Bullard (Sr., 6-4, 225)
LT: Tarik Glenn (Sr., 6-6, 345)*	Brian Shields (Jr., 6-7, 275)
LG: Drake Parker (Jr., 6-4, 280)*	Yauger Williams (So., 6-6, 275)
C: Caleb Brown (So., 6-4, 310)	Jeremy Newberry (So., 6-5, 305)
RG: J. Newberry (So., 6-5, 305)*	John Welburn (So., 6-5, 285)
RT: Todd Stewart (Sr., 6-6, 290)*	Kursten Sheridan (Jr., 6-6, 290)

DEFENSE

DE: Andy Jacobs (Sr., 6-4, 255)*	Jerry DeLoach (Fr., 6-5, 270)
NT: Brent Jones (Sr., 6-3, 277)*	George Roberts (Jr., 6-3, 265)
DT: Brandon Whiting (Jr., 6-3, 280)*	Chris Easley (Jr., 6-5, 260)
DE: Evan Collins (Sr., 6-5, 275)	Kevin Swillis (So., 6-5, 290)
LB: Todd Trowbridge (So., 6-4, 225)	Sekou Sanyika (Fr., 6-3, 225)
LB: André Rhodes (Jr., 6-2, 225)*	Justin Oakes (Fr., 6-1, 225)
LB: Rasheed Hibler (Jr., 6-3, 235)	Justin Flagg (So., 6-1, 230)
CB: Kevin Devine (Sr., 5-11, 175)*	Mark Orr (So., 6-0, 175)
CB: Derrick Gardner (So., 6-0, 180)	Don London (Fr., 6-0, 180)
SS: Marlon McWilson (Jr., 6-2, 215)*	Jihad Akbar (Jr., 6-0, 190)
FS: Marquis Smith (So., 6-3, 200)	Pete Destefano (Fr., 6-3, 205)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Ryan Longwell (Sr., 6-0, 180)*	Ignacio Brache (Fr., 6-0, 195)
P: Ryan Longwell (Sr., 6-0, 180)*	Jon Dempsey (Fr., 5-11, 165)

(* denotes returning starter)



FACTS

COACH: Steve Mariucci, 1st year

'95 RECORD: 3-8 (2-6 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: California Memorial Stadium, Berkeley, Calif. (75,630, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 17 (9 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Duane Clemons, DL (2nd-team All America, entered NFL Draft); Regan Upshaw, DL (1st-team All-Pac-10, entered NFL Draft); Reynard Rutherford, RB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Pat Barnes, Sr., 197-362-2,685 yards, 17 TDs, 11 INTs

RUSHING: Tarik Smith, Jr., 74 carries, 391 yards, 2 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Na'il Benjamin, Sr., 52, 5 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Bobby Shaw, Jr., 658

TACKLES: Marlon McWilson, Jr., 69

SACKS: Andy Jacobs and Brent Jones, Srs., 4 each

INTERCEPTIONS: Kevin Devine, Sr., 2

PUNTING: Ryan Longwell, Sr., 40.4 avg.

KICKING: Longwell, 12-17 FGs (long 49), 21-23 PATs

SCORING: Longwell, 57 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	..at San Jose State
Sept. 14	..SAN DIEGO STATE
Sept. 21	..NEVADA
Sept. 28	..OREGON STATE
Oct. 5	..at USC
Oct. 19	..at Washington State
Oct. 26	..UCLA (HC)
Nov. 2	..ARIZONA
Nov. 9	..at Arizona State
Nov. 16	..at Oregon
Nov. 23	..STANFORD

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	..at San Diego State; L, 33-9
Sept. 9	..FRESNO STATE; L, 25-24
Sept. 23	..SAN JOSE STATE; W, 40-7
Sept. 30	..at Arizona; L, 20-15
Oct. 7	..USC; L, 26-16
Oct. 14	..OREGON; L, 52-30
Oct. 21	..at Oregon State; W, 13-12
Oct. 28	..at UCLA; L, 33-16
Nov. 4	..WASHINGTON STATE; W, 27-11
Nov. 11	..ARIZONA STATE; L, 38-29
Nov. 18	..at Stanford; L, 29-25

MILESTONE

■ Senior WR Na'il Benjamin needs 57 catches to pass Brian Treggs (167) as Cal's all-time leader.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- QB Pat Barnes must develop the consistency of a leader.
- Defense must replace All-Pac-10 DE Regan Upshaw and LB Duane Clemons.
- Must come out of the chute ready to go after dropping the first two games the past two seasons.



OREGON

FACTS

COACH: Mike Bellotti, 2nd year, 9-3
'95 RECORD: 9-3 (6-2 conf.)
FINAL RANKINGS: No. 18 AP, USA Today/CNN
HOME STADIUM: Autzen Stadium, Eugene, Ore. (41,698, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (8 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Ricky Whittle, RB (2nd-team All America); Alex Molden, DB (2nd-team All America); Jeremy Asher, LB (1st-team All-Pac-10); Cristin McLeomore, WR (2nd-team All-Pac-10); Troy Bailey, DL (2nd-team All-Pac-10)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Tony Graziani, Sr., 212-389-2,491 yards, 13 TDs, 8 INTs
RUSHING: Graziani, 70 carries, 238 yards, 4 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Josh Wilcox, Sr., 34, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Wilcox, 439
TACKLES: Kenny Wheaton, Jr., 68
SACKS: Derrick Barnes and Reggie Jordan, Srs., 6 each
INTERCEPTIONS: Wheaton, 4
PUNTING: Josh Bidwell, Soph., 36.1 avg.
KICKING: Joshua Smith, Soph., 14-21 FGs (long 43), 29-32 PATs
SCORING: Smith, 71 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...at Fresno State
 Sept. 7 ...NEVADA
 Sept. 14 ...COLORADO STATE
 Sept. 21 ...at Washington State
 Sept. 28 ...ARIZONA STATE
 Oct. 5 ...UCLA
 Oct. 12 ...at Stanford
 Oct. 26 ...WASHINGTON
 Nov. 9 ...ARIZONA (HC)
 Nov. 16 ...CALIFORNIA
 Nov. 23 ...at Oregon State

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...at Utah; W, 27-20
 Sept. 9 ...ILLINOIS; W, 34-31
 Sept. 16 ...at UCLA; W, 38-31
 Sept. 23 ...STANFORD; L, 28-21
 Oct. 7 ...PACIFIC; W, 45-7
 Oct. 14 ...at California; W, 52-30
 Oct. 21 ...WASHINGTON STATE; W, 26-7
 Oct. 28 ...ARIZONA STATE; L, 35-24
 Nov. 4 ...at Washington; W, 24-22
 Nov. 11 ...at Arizona; W, 17-13
 Nov. 18 ...OREGON STATE; W, 12-10
 Jan. 1 ...vs. Colorado in Cotton Bowl; L, 38-6

MILESTONES

- Oregon can make it three straight wins and 18 of the last 22 in the civil war against Oregon State.
- Kenny Wheaton needs 10 interceptions over his final two years to become Oregon's career leader.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- The offensive line needs to continue its solid work.
- Chemistry. Both coach Mike Bellotti and the players have to adjust to a pair of new coordinators.
- The Ducks have strength at the defensive line and secondary positions, but the new linebackers must adapt quickly.

By JONATHAN DALTON

Oregon fell short of a second consecutive trip to the Rose Bowl, but the Ducks recorded a significant milestone with their invitation to the Cotton Bowl. For the first time in school history, Oregon played in consecutive New Year's Day bowl games.

"I think the key was the attitude sustained itself," said head coach Mike Bellotti, who posted the most wins ever by a first-year Ducks coach. "The chemistry remained, as well as the will and the belief that we were going to win. Those are crucial things and things that no amount of yelling, striving and conniving can get done."

Like last season, Bellotti spent much of his off-season searching for new coaches. Gone are offensive coordinator Alan Borges and defensive coordinator Charlie Waters, who were replaced by Dirk Koetter and Rich Stubler, respectively. Stubler was the latest addition, signing on in mid-March after a five-year stint with the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League.

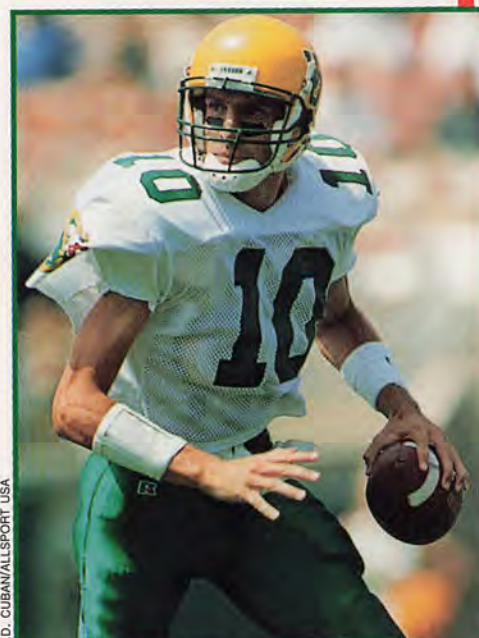
OFFENSE: Senior Tony Graziani quickly added his name to the list of stellar Ducks quarterbacks, leading the Pac-10 in total offense (272.9 yards per game), and completing 54.5 percent of his passes for 2,491 yards—the fifth-best in school history. He also was the Ducks' second-leading rusher and was 11th in the nation in all-purpose yards.

"He went through some growing pains but he did a nice job," Bellotti said. "He is a dual threat to any defense. I think he can and will get better."

Graziani benefited from an offensive line that surrendered only 17 sacks. The same protection can be expected this season as four starters return, including second-team All-Pac-10 tackle Paul Wiggins.

Tailback Ricky Whittle, who finished third on Oregon's career rushing list, will be replaced by a committee of backs, including sophomores Kevin Parker and David Crump as well as red-shirt freshmen Jerry Brown and Derien Latimer.

DEFENSE: How do you replace an All-America cor-



TONY GRAZIANI-QB

nerback like Alex Molden, the 11th pick overall in April's NFL Draft? Actually, you don't. All Bellotti can do is hope his other players in the secondary, including junior cornerback Kenny Wheaton, can step up. Wheaton doesn't have far to go. Last season, he recorded 68 tackles, the third-best mark on the team, and picked off four passes (one for a touchdown).

The Ducks also lost linebackers Jeremy Asher and Rich Ruhl, leaving behind senior Derrick Barnes and junior Garth White. Junior Jeff Branson and sophomore Ryan Klassen should contribute. Seniors Bryant Jackson and Mark Schmidt are joined on the Ducks' three-man defensive front by junior Desmond Byrd.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Opponents rarely had a chance to do anything with sophomore Josh Bidwell's punts last season. Although Bidwell booted 62 kicks an average of just 36.3 yards, Oregon's special teams compensated by limiting opponents to 91 return yards in 12 games, including the Cotton Bowl.

The Ducks have a consistent kicker in sophomore Joshua Smith, who connected on 14-of-21 field-goal attempts.

With Whittle gone, Crump and junior Pat Johnson inherit most of the kick-return duties. Johnson, a reserve flanker, again handles the bulk of the punt returns.

RECRUITING: Concentrating heavily on the California prep ranks, Bellotti signed a handful of players who have an opportunity to make an immediate impact. Receivers LaCorey Collins (6-4, 210), a Parade All America out of Oakland, and Tony Hartley (6-2, 190) from Los Alamitos, Calif., should compete for a spot on the two-deep roster, as will defensive backs Tamoni Joiner (5-11, 180) of Tucson, Ariz., and LuShawn Brown (6-0, 185) of Long Beach (Calif.) Junior College. ☐

Jonathan Dalton is a free-lance writer based in Mesa, Arizona.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Tony Graziani (Sr., 6-3, 200)*
RB: Kevin Parker (So., 5-10, 182)
RB: Aaron Jelks (Jr., 6-2, 246)*
WR: Jibri Hodge (Sr., 5-8, 165)
WR: D. Ricketts (Sr., 5-9, 188)*
TE: Josh Wilcox (Sr., 6-3, 251)*
LT: Paul Wiggins (Sr., 6-4, 305)*
LG: Bob Baldwin (Sr., 6-4, 279)
C: Mark Gregg (Sr., 6-4, 270)*
RG: Tasi Malepeai (Sr., 6-2, 340)*
RT: David Weber (Jr., 6-5, 270)*

DEFENSE

DE: Desmond Byrd (Jr., 6-3, 288)
NT: Bryant Jackson (Sr., 6-1, 274)*
DE: Mark Schmidt (Sr., 6-3, 296)*
LB: Reggie Jordan (Sr., 6-3, 262)
LB: Jeff Branson (Jr., 6-3, 225)
LB: Ryan Klassen (So., 6-2, 235)
LB: Derrick Barnes (Sr., 6-1, 251)*
CB: Ronnie Gipson (Sr., 6-1, 180)
CB: Kenny Wheaton (Jr., 5-9, 191)*
SS: David Coyle (So., 6-0, 190)
FS: Eric Edwards (So., 6-0, 181)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Joshua Smith (So., 6-1, 180)*
P: Josh Bidwell (So., 6-3, 227)*

Ryan Perry-Smith (Sr., 6-1, 213)
David Crump (So., 5-9, 185)
Eric Winn (Jr., 5-9, 212)
Jamaal Wallace (Jr., 5-7, 175)
Damon Griffin (So., 5-10, 182)
Blake Spence (Jr., 6-4, 251)
Andy Petty (Jr., 6-3, 281)
Josh Beckett (Fr., 6-4, 320)
Paul Driver (Fr., 6-3, 295)
Seaton Daly (Jr., 6-4, 273)
Willy Rife (Sr., 6-6, 319)

Marty Murphy (So., 6-4, 234)
Deke Moen (Fr., 6-3, 261)
Lele Sualua (So., 6-3, 270)
Matt Lofrano (Jr., 6-2, 238)
Garth White (Jr., 6-2, 237)
Chris Vandiver (Sr., 6-2, 208)
Derek Allen (Sr., 6-5, 240)
Michael Fletcher (Fr., 5-9, 187)
Kaon-Jabbar East (Sr., 6-0, 184)
Alex Hautau (Sr., 5-10, 198)
B. McLeomore (Fr., 6-3, 202)

Matt Brewer (So., 6-2, 182)
Matt Belden (So., 5-10, 198)
 (* denotes returning starter)

OREGON STATE



TIM ALEXANDER-QB

TODD WARSHAW/ALLSPORT USA

By JONATHAN DAULTON

Big things were expected out of Oregon State after consecutive 4-7 seasons, such as the Beavers' first winning season in a quarter of a century. But after a lackluster season-opening win over Idaho, Oregon State finished the season with 10 straight losses and dropped into the Pacific-10 cellar for the 12th time since the conference expanded from eight to 10 teams in 1978.

Much of the blame can be laid on the offense, which struggled in the midst of a preseason adjustment. Coach Jerry Pettibone, who had made the Beavers one of a handful of Division I-A teams running a pure wishbone, altered the basic offensive set in an attempt to open up the passing game. The result was an offense that managed only 16 touchdowns—one through the air.

The task of reviving the offense will fall on the shoulders of new offensive coordinator Denny Schuler, who comes to the Beavers after three seasons in the same post with California.

"I believe the program is closer to being turned around than a lot of people realize," said Schuler, who also saw Oregon State up close and personal in seven seasons as Oregon's defensive coordinator.

OFFENSE: Schuler's hiring led to speculation that the Beavers would scrap the option in favor of a conventional set. But Pettibone, who always has maintained that an option attack is viable in the Pac-10, is sticking to his guns.

"We are not abandoning our option philosophy," Pettibone said. "Instead, we are going to balance our offense with what we do well, running the football with a passing attack that complements our running game."

Oregon State returns its top two quarterbacks in senior Don Shanklin and sophomore Tim Alexander. While the pair threw for only 673 yards combined, they ran for 690 yards and four touchdowns.

Akili King, a senior transfer from Army—where he rushed for 883 yards as sophomore—will step in to replace J.D. Stewart at fullback.

DEFENSE: The defensive unit was the Beavers' lone strong suit a season ago, as Oregon State held opponents to 304 yards per game, the third-best mark in the conference and 16th-best in the nation.

Returning starters Tony Huot and Inoke Breckterfield will be joined by either Tom Huthoefer or Bob McKane, a transfer from Mesa (Ariz.) Community College, in Oregon State's basic three-man front, with pressure coming from junior Sione Tupou, another JUCO transfer.

Free safety Reggie Tongue, the Pac-10's second-leading tackler last season, is gone, but the other members of Oregon State's secondary are back. Senior Marc Williams, junior Larry Bumpus and sophomores Andrae Holland and Armon Hatcher all return after starting 11 games each last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Senior punter Doug Stuckey was mighty busy last year, booting 71 punts (nearly seven a game) an average of 38.4 yards. He pinned 13 kicks inside the opponents' 20, an admirable feat considering the inability of Oregon State's offense to mount deep drives.

Like Stuckey, junior kicker Randy Lund was an active individual, though he wasn't nearly as consistent. Lund made just 9 of 19 field-goal attempts. He could lose his job to junior Matt Bryant, a two-time first-team JUCO All America.

RECRUITING: Pettibone displayed an eye to the future by loading up on high school seniors who could develop inside the program. Not surprisingly, he signed a horde of running backs, including Reggie Gage of Harvey, Ill., Sam Gage (no relation) of Tacoma, Wash., Jamal Harris of Westlake Village, Calif., Chris Paogofie of Waianae, Hawaii, and Ricky Walker of Oakland, Calif.

Jonathan Daulton is a free-lance writer based in Mesa, Ariz.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Tim Alexander (So., 6-0, 176)	Don Shanklin (Sr., 5-11, 195)*
RB: DeShawn Williams (So., 5-10, 199)	Derrick Brame (So., 6-0, 209)
RB: Akili King (Sr., 5-11, 230)	Darron Kirkman (Sr., 5-11, 232)
RB: Derek Poole (So., 5-11, 194)	Gabe Schmidtke (Fr., 5-10, 176)
WR: Sylvester Green (Sr., 6-0, 216)	Cobbe Davis (Fr., 5-9, 171)
TE: Joe Kuykendall (So., 6-5, 253)	Jered Lee (Fr., 6-3, 245)
LT: Grant Forman (Sr., 6-4, 279)	Larry Ramirez (So., 6-6, 284)*
LG: Yul Everline (Jr., 6-2, 305)	Trey Hyde (Jr., 6-6, 298)
C: Jamie Critchlow (Sr., 6-2, 276)*	Aaron Koch (Fr., 6-3, 277)
RG: Brad Thompson (Sr., 6-2, 324)*	Freddie Perez (Jr., 6-3, 300)
RT: Jarrod Owens (Sr., 6-5, 305)	Charles Hatcher (Jr., 6-3, 295)

DEFENSE

DE: Tony Huot (Sr., 6-4, 259)*	Sione Tupou (Jr., 6-0, 255)
DE: I. Breckterfield (So., 5-11, 264)*	Darrol Camp (Fr., 6-0, 271)
DE: Tom Huthoefer (Sr., 6-6, 264)	Bob McKane (So., 6-3, 250)
LB: Brian Rogers (So., 6-3, 247)	Jonathan Jackson (Fr., 6-2, 216)
LB: Nathan McAtee (Jr., 6-4, 225)	Anthony Murray (Jr., 6-1, 219)
LB: Brian Ludwick (Sr., 6-2, 226)	Alex Sawatzke (So., 6-0, 220)
ROV: Marc Williams (Sr., 5-9, 173)*	Jason Dandridge (So., 6-0, 171)
CB: Andrae Holland (So., 5-10, 176)*	Robert Ruffin (So., 5-8, 160)
CB: Armon Hatcher (So., 6-0, 202)*	Byron Lane (So., 5-11, 192)
SS: Larry Bumpus (Jr., 6-1, 196)*	Adrian Woodson (Jr., 5-10, 199)
FS: Bryan Jones (So., 6-4, 199)	Buster Elahee (Jr., 6-0, 160)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Randy Lund (Jr., 6-0, 186)*	Matt Bryant (Jr., 5-9, 185)
P: Doug Stuckey (Sr., 6-0, 196)*	Mike Smith (Jr., 6-0, 182)

(* denotes returning starter)



FACTS

COACH: Jerry Pettibone, 6th year, 11-43-1; 44-75-2 overall

'95 RECORD: 1-10 (0-8 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Parker Stadium, Corvallis, Ore. (35,547, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 12 (4 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Reggie Tongue, DB (1st-team All-Pac-10); Tim Camp, OL (2nd-team All-Pac-10);

Tom Holmes, DL (2nd-team All-Pac-10); Kane

Rogers, LB (2nd-team All-Pac-10)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Tim Alexander, Soph., 25-76-400 yards, 4 INTs

RUSHING: Alexander, 109 carries, 439 yards

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Terrance Blackwell, Jr., 13

RECEIVING (YARDS): Blackwell, 175

TACKLES: Marc Williams, Sr., 71

SACKS: Williams, 5

INTERCEPTIONS: Larry Bumpus, Jr., and Armon

Hatcher and Andrae Holland, Sophs., 3 each

PUNTING: Doug Stuckey, Sr., 38.4 avg.

KICKING: Randy Lund, Jr., 9-19 FGs (long 43), 11-13 PATs

SCORING: Lund, 38 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	..MONTANA
Sept. 14	..at USC
Sept. 21	..at Baylor
Sept. 28	..at California
Oct. 12	..WASHINGTON STATE
Oct. 19	..STANFORD (HC)
Oct. 26	..at Arizona
Nov. 2	..ARIZONA STATE
Nov. 9	..at Washington
Nov. 16	..NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Nov. 23	..OREGON

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	..IDAHO; W, 14-7
Sept. 9	..at Pacific; L, 23-10
Sept. 16	..at North Texas; L, 30-27
Sept. 23	..at Arizona State; L, 20-11
Sept. 30	..WASHINGTON; L, 26-16
Oct. 7	..at Washington State; L, 40-14
Oct. 21	..CALIFORNIA; L, 13-12
Oct. 28	..at Stanford; L, 24-3
Nov. 4	..ARIZONA; L, 14-9
Nov. 11	..USC; L, 28-10
Nov. 18	..at Oregon; L, 12-10

MILESTONE

■ Oregon State is looking for its first winning season since going 6-5 in 1970.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Develop a semblance of a passing game to complement its stable of running backs.
- Continue its dominance on defense.
- Improve a busy kicking game.



USC

FACTS

COACH: John Robinson, 11th year, 92-24-4

'95 RECORD: 9-2-1 (6-1-1 conf.)

FINAL RANKINGS: No. 12 AP, No. 11 USA

Today/CNN

HOME STADIUM: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, Calif. (92,000, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 11 (4 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Keyshawn Johnson, WR (1st-team All-America); John Michels, OL (1st-team All-Pac-10); John Stonehouse, P (1st-team All-Pac-10); Johnny McWilliams, TE (2nd-team All-Pac-10); Israel Ifeanyi, DL (2nd-team All-Pac-10); Erick Herrin, LB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Brad Otton, Sr., 130-212-1,532 yards, 12 TDs, 4 INTs

RUSHING: Delon Washington, Jr., 220 carries, 1,058 yards, 5 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Larry Parker, Jr., 24

RECEIVING (YARDS): Parker, 265

TACKLES: Sammy Knight, Sr., 82

SACKS: Matt Keneley, Sr., and Darrell Russell, Jr., 4 each

INTERCEPTIONS: Brian Kelly, Jr., 3

PUNTING: None

KICKING: Adam Abrams, Soph., 5-6 FGs (long 46), 21-22 PATs

SCORING: Washington, 36 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 25 . . . vs. Penn State in Kickoff Classic*

Sept. 7 . . . at Illinois

Sept. 14 . . . OREGON STATE

Sept. 21 . . . at Houston

Oct. 5 . . . CALIFORNIA

Oct. 12 . . . ARIZONA

Oct. 19 . . . at Arizona State

Oct. 26 . . . at Washington State

Nov. 2 . . . WASHINGTON (HC)

Nov. 9 . . . at Stanford

Nov. 23 . . . at UCLA

Nov. 30 . . . NOTRE DAME

*at Giants Stadium, E. Rutherford, N.J.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 9 . . . SAN JOSE STATE; W, 45-7

Sept. 16 . . . HOUSTON; W, 45-10

Sept. 23 . . . at Arizona; W, 31-10

Sept. 30 . . . ARIZONA STATE; W, 31-0

Oct. 7 . . . at California; W, 26-16

Oct. 14 . . . WASHINGTON STATE; W, 26-14

Oct. 21 . . . at Notre Dame; L, 38-10

Oct. 28 . . . at Washington; T, 21-21

Nov. 4 . . . STANFORD; W, 31-30

Nov. 11 . . . at Oregon State; W, 28-10

Nov. 18 . . . UCLA; L, 24-20

Jan. 1 . . . vs. N'western in Rose Bowl; W, 41-32

MILESTONE

■ Brad Otton's 216 consecutive passes without an interception at the start of his USC career (1994-'95) is an NCAA record.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Otton must emerge as the leader of the offense with Keyshawn Johnson gone.
- Young linebackers must deliver behind powerful defensive front.
- Punter John Stonehouse must be replaced.

By LYLE SPENCER

The John Robinson Era, Part II, is in high gear. In each of his three seasons since his return to

Los Angeles, Robinson's Trojans have posted at least eight wins, been ranked in the final Top 25 and won a bowl game, topped off by last season's 41-32 triumph over Northwestern in the Rose Bowl.

But not all is rosy in southern California. Despite a Pac-10-best 25 wins over the past three seasons, Robinson has yet to beat the Trojans' two biggest rivals—UCLA and Notre Dame—since his return. And, for the first time in three seasons, he'll be without Keyshawn Johnson, one of his all-time favorite players and the first player taken in this year's NFL Draft. Johnson, who put up NFL-like numbers last season (102 catches, 1,434 yards), takes with him a large piece of USC's offense and a big chunk of its personality as well.

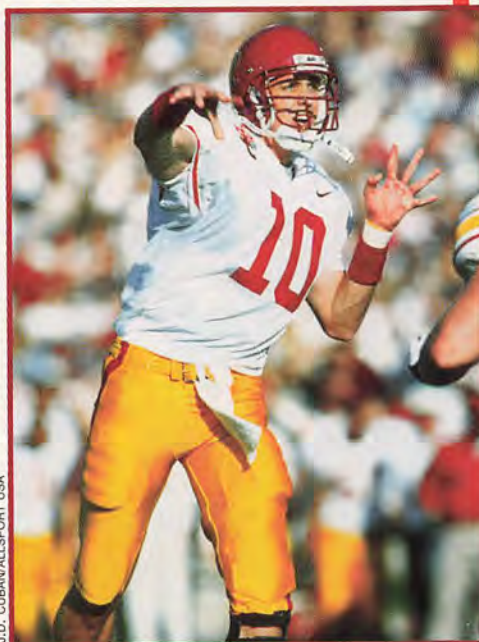
Realistically, the Trojans can't replace Johnson's productivity, so they will try to fill the void from a variety of sources. The running game should be the primary choice with depth at tail-back few teams in America can match. Last season, junior Delon Washington became USC's first 1,000-yard rusher since 1990, darting for 1,058 yards, and behind him are talented Shawn Walters, Rodney Sermons and LaVale Woods.

The defense could be overpowering up front, led by All-America candidate Darrell Russell, and is deep in the secondary. A youthful linebacking corps forms the big question mark.

OFFENSE: Alternating with Kyle Wachholtz until the Rose Bowl, quarterback Brad Otton showed he could move an offense that included the incomparable Johnson. Now, the 6-foot-6 passer must show he can flourish as the focal point.

Ottom, who completed 62.1 percent of his passes and torched the Wildcats with 391 yards on New Year's Day, will look to spread the ball around to Chris Miller, Billy Miller and Larry Parker, along with the running backs.

How deep is USC's running game? Backup tail-



BRAD OTTON-QB

back Walters, who missed part of last season because of a suspension, is close to breaking into the school's top 10 career rushing list.

Four offensive linemen departed, leaving guard Phalen Pounds (6-7, 310) to lead a new front wall.

DEFENSE: It's doubtful there's a better pair of tackles in the country than Russell and Matt Keneley. Willie Lowery, whose forte is hot pursuit, also returns at end.

"Our defensive line is much more experienced, talented and deeper than at any time since I returned to USC," Robinson said. "This group has a chance to be a dominating presence."

That would help take some of the pressure off a restructured linebacking trio. Sammy Knight, a hitter at safety for three years, will be tried on an experimental basis at linebacker in a rover-type role.

The secondary is swift, athletic and deep enough to survive if Knight moves up to linebacker. Brian Kelly is an emerging star at free safety and sophomore corner Daylon McCutcheon is a big-play man.

SPECIAL TEAMS: John Stonehouse, perhaps USC's best punter ever, will be a hard act to follow. Heir apparent Jim Wren was a JUCO All America at Fullerton (Calif.) College in 1994 and sat out last season. Adam Abrams moved ahead of Adam Rendon in a duel of freshmen kickers last season and "might be the best kicker in the Pac-10," Robinson said. Parker (9.2-yard punt return average) provides juice, and McCutcheon could be a breakout return man.

RECRUITING: The Trojans cashed in at linebacker (Riverside's Chris Clairborne and fellow Californians Sultan Abdul Malik, Shamsud-Din Shaheed and David Gibson) and wide receiver. California products Stan Guyness (Los Alamitos), R. Jay Soward (Fontana) and Troy Garner (Sherman Oaks Notre Dame) all arrive with dreams of being the next Johnson.

Lyle Spencer is a columnist for the Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Brad Otton (Sr., 6-6, 235)*	Matt Koffler (Sr., 6-4, 220)
RB: D. Washington (Jr., 5-11, 190)*	Shawn Walters (Sr., 6-0, 225)
RB: Marvin Powell III (So., 6-2, 200)	Leonard Green (Sr., 6-0, 180)
WR: Larry Parker (Jr., 6-2, 190)*	Tony Griffin (Fr., 6-3, 210)
WR: Chris Miller (Sr., 5-11, 175)	Billy Miller (So., 6-3, 210)
TE: John Allred (Sr., 6-5, 250)	Jeff Diltz (Sr., 6-5, 250)
LT: Rome Douglas (So., 6-7, 290)	Brent McCaffrey (Fr., 6-5, 265)
LG: Chris Brymer (Jr., 6-3, 285)	Dong Koo (Sr., 6-4, 285)
C: J. Himebauch (Jr., 6-3, 285)	Mark Manskar (Fr., 6-7, 240)
RG: Phalen Pounds (Jr., 6-7, 310)*	David Pratchard (So., 6-5, 265)
RT: Ken Bowen (So., 6-8, 320)	Grank Boelter (Jr., 6-6, 310)

DEFENSE

DE: Willie Lowery (Sr., 6-5, 255)	Aaron Williams (Fr., 6-4, 230)
DT: Darrell Russell (Jr., 6-4, 320)*	Cedric Jefferson (Jr., 6-2, 265)
DT: Matt Keneley (Sr., 6-5, 285)*	Anthony Sanford (Sr., 6-5, 285)
DE: George Perry (Jr., 6-5, 260)	Greg Tellam (Sr., 6-4, 225)
LB: Mark Cusano (So., 6-2, 215)	Lawrence Larry (So., 6-3, 235)
LB: Bob Aubrey (So., 6-3, 215)	Mark Farlin (Sr., 6-0, 235)
LB: Sammy Knight (Sr., 6-1, 195)*	Ryan Tyiska (Jr., 6-2, 175)
CB: D. McCutcheon (So., 5-11, 175)*	Prentice Hill (So., 5-8, 170)
CB: Quincy Harrison (Sr., 5-11, 185)*	Ken Haslip (So., 5-10, 160)
SS: Grant Pearsall (Jr., 6-1, 190)	Rashard Cook (So., 6-0, 190)
FS: Brian Kelly (Jr., 6-1, 190)*	Mike Bastianelli (So., 6-1, 185)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Adam Abrams (So., 5-9, 170)*	Adam Rendon (So., 6-2, 205)
P: Jim Wren (Jr., 6-0, 215)	R.J. Sansom (Jr., 6-1, 180)

(* denotes returning starter)

STANFORD



JED JACOBSON/ALLOSPORT USA

DAMON DUNN-WR/KR

By **BRENDAN HEALEY**

On a campus where students are more likely to go to the College Bowl than a football bowl, Stanford coach Tyrone Willingham has instilled a new attitude.

Preaching toughness, intensity and consistency, Willingham took a team predicted to be a Pac-10 doormat and led it to the Liberty Bowl last year in his first season as head coach. This season, Willingham, who was chosen 1995 Pac-10 Coach of the Year, is setting the bar even higher for a team with 14 returning starters.

"We had an OK season," Willingham said. "We did some good things, but there's a lot more for the Stanford football team to do."

OFFENSE: Traditionally pass-happy Stanford finds itself in an unusual situation this season. The Cardinal is deeper at running back than it has been in years, but for the second consecutive season Stanford will break in a new quarterback. Senior Tim Carey (6-foot-4, 195 pounds) and redshirt freshman Chad Hutchinson (6-5, 230) will battle for the job. Carey was the backup last season, and Hutchinson turned down a substantial signing bonus from the Atlanta Braves to play both football and baseball for Stanford.

Stanford had one of the best rushing seasons in school history thanks to junior Anthony Bookman, who rushed for 872 yards, and senior Mike Mitchell, who gained 593. The stocky Bookman can pinball between the tackles or sprint to the corner, and Mitchell is a classic long-striding speedster.

Senior guard Brad Badger (6-4, 285) and senior tackle Nathan Parks (6-6, 302) are the only returning regulars from an offensive line that allowed only 16 sacks. Senior flanker Brian Manning caught 40 balls in a down year for him, but he can stretch a defense.

DEFENSE: The Cardinal ranked ninth in the Pac-10 in total defense and gave up 184.1 rushing yards per game. Look for any improvement to begin with the

leading returning tackler, inside linebacker Chris Draft (103 tackles). "We've got to get Chris stronger and more durable," Willingham said.

Junior Jon Ritchie has moved from fullback to inside linebacker to help shore up the front seven. Junior defensive end Carl Hansen (eight sacks) and senior defensive tackle Pete Swanson (6-6, 300) return on the line. The secondary features senior free safety Josh Madsen, senior strong safety Eliel Swinton and senior cornerback Leroy Pruitt.

Willingham is upping the ante for an experienced group. "I'm not one who believes in bodies," Willingham said. "I believe in production. We've got bodies who are returning, but how many of those guys were all-conference?"

SPECIAL TEAMS: Special teams played a prominent role in Stanford's bowl run last season. Junior All-Pac-10 return specialist Damon Dunn and senior Marlon Evans both returned kicks for touchdowns. They averaged 28.4 and 27.9 yards per return, respectively, and gave Stanford the second-best return average in the country. Willingham must replace All-America kicker Eric Abrams, who finished his career as the leading scorer in school history. Patrick Shinnfield is the top candidate.

RECRUITING: In his first full year of recruiting, Willingham signed a strong class of 20. Center Blaine Maxfield (6-4, 285) of Ricks (Utah) College, Stanford's only junior college recruit, may be the most mature player in the class—he has already completed a Mormon mission and is 24 years old with a wife and daughter. Tight end Steve Coughlin from Ansonia, Conn., was chosen National High School Offensive Player of the Year by *SuperPrep* magazine. Defensive lineman Sam Benner (6-5, 250) of Ventura (Calif.) St. Bonaventure; defensive lineman Riall Johnson (6-3, 235) of Everett (Wash.) Mariner; and defensive lineman Willie Howard of Los Altos, Calif., may also contribute.

Brendan Healey is a free-lance writer based in New York City.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Tim Carey (Sr., 6-4, 195)	Chad Hutchinson (Fr., 6-5, 230)
RB: Anthony Bookman (Jr., 5-8, 185)*	Mike Mitchell (Sr., 6-0, 215)
RB: Greg Comella (Sr., 6-1, 225)	Adam Salina (Sr., 6-3, 250)*
WR: Brian Manning (Sr., 6-0, 182)*	Andre Kirwan (Sr., 6-1, 185)
WR: Damon Dunn (Sr., 5-10, 180)	Marlon Evans (Sr., 6-0, 185)
TE: Greg Clark (Sr., 6-5, 255)*	Derek Hubbard (Sr., 6-4, 235)
LT: Nathan Parks (Sr., 6-6, 302)*	Eli Burriss (So., 6-6, 280)
LG: Andrew Kroeker (Jr., 6-4, 292)	Brian Donoghue (Jr., 6-6, 285)
C: Mike McLaughlin (So., 6-4, 290)	Blaine Maxfield (Jr., 6-4, 285)
RG: Brad Badger (Sr., 6-4, 285)*	Joe Fairchild (So., 6-6, 270)
RT: Geoff Wilson (Jr., 6-7, 295)	Jeff Cronshagen (So., 6-7, 285)

DEFENSE

DE: Kailee Wong (Jr., 6-4, 260)	Bryan Werner (Sr., 6-5, 255)
DT: Pete Swanson (Sr., 6-6, 300)*	Andrew Currie (So., 6-3, 265)
NT: Anthony Willis (Jr., 6-2, 280)	Evan Wagner (Sr., 6-2, 260)
DE: Carl Hansen (Jr., 6-5, 265)*	Konti Pellegrin (So., 6-2, 240)
LB: Brian Batson (Sr., 6-3, 230)*	Nicodemus Watts (Sr., 6-3, 205)
LB: Jon Ritchie (Jr., 6-2, 240)	Jon Haskins (Jr., 6-3, 238)
LB: Chris Draft (Jr., 6-1, 220)*	Jon Haskins (Jr., 6-3, 238)
CB: Leroy Pruitt (Sr., 5-9, 175)*	Marlon Evans (Sr., 6-0, 185)
CB: Alistair White (Sr., 6-0, 200)	Corey Hill (Jr., 6-0, 205)
SS: Eliel Swinton (Sr., 5-11, 200)*	Kadar Hamilton (Jr., 5-11, 207)
FS: Josh Madsen (Sr., 6-2, 215)*	Tim Smith (So., 6-4, 220)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: P. Shinnfield (So., 6-0, 190)	Kevin Miller (Jr., 6-0, 200)
P: Kevin Miller (Jr., 6-0, 200)*	David Warter (So., 6-0, 195)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Tyrone Willingham, 2nd year, 7-4-1

'95 RECORD: 7-4-1 (5-3 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Stanford Stadium, Stanford, Calif. (85,000, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (6 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Eric Abrams, K (3rd-team All-America); Jeff Buckley, OL (1st-team All-Pac-10); Mark Butterfield, QB (2nd-team All-Pac-10); Mark Harris, WR (2nd-team All-Pac-10)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Tim Carey, Sr., 3-4-12 yards

RUSHING: Anthony Bookman, Jr., 181 carries, 872 yards, 3 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Brian Manning, Sr., 40, 3 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Manning, 616

TACKLES: Chris Draft, Jr., 103

SACKS: Carl Hansen, Jr., 8

INTERCEPTIONS: Leroy Pruitt and Josh Madsen, Sr., 4 each

PUNTING: Kevin Miller, Jr., 37.4 avg.

KICKING: None

SCORING: Greg Comella, Sr., 54 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	UTAH
Sept. 14	SAN JOSE STATE
Sept. 21	at Wisconsin
Oct. 5	at Washington
Oct. 12	OREGON (HC)
Oct. 19	at Oregon State
Oct. 26	ARIZONA STATE
Nov. 2	at UCLA
Nov. 9	USC
Nov. 16	WASHINGTON STATE
Nov. 23	at California

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	at San Jose State; W, 47-33
Sept. 9	at Utah; W, 27-20
Sept. 16	WISCONSIN; T, 24-24
Sept. 23	at Oregon; W, 28-21
Oct. 7	at Arizona State; W, 30-28
Oct. 14	WASHINGTON; L, 38-28
Oct. 21	UCLA; L, 42-28
Oct. 28	OREGON STATE; W, 24-3
Nov. 4	at USC; L, 31-30
Nov. 11	at Washington State; W, 36-28
Nov. 18	CALIFORNIA; W, 29-24
Dec. 30	vs. East Carolina in Liberty Bowl; L, 19-13

MILESTONE

■ Senior flanker Brian Manning needs 585 yards to break the Stanford career receiving yardage record.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Stop the run.
- Find a quarterback to replace Mark Butterfield.
- Build on intensity developed in first year under Tyrone Willingham.

FACTS

COACH: Bob Toledo, 1st year

'95 RECORD: 7-5 (4-4 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif. (104,091, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 12 (4 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Jonathan Ogden, OL (1st-team All America); Karim Abdul-Jabbar, RB (1st-team All-Pac-10, entered NFL Draft); Mike Flanagan, OL (1st-team All-Pac-10); Kevin Jordan, WR

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Cade McNown, Soph., 122-245-1,698 yards, 7 TDs, 8 INTs

RUSHING: McNown, 71 carries, 311 yards, 5 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Derek Ayers, Sr., 23, 1 TD

RECEIVING (YARDS): Jim McElroy, Jr., 403

TACKLES: Abdul McCullough, Sr., 100

SACKS: McCullough and Travis Kirschke, Srs., 3 each

INTERCEPTIONS: Javelin Guidry, Jr., and Paul Guidry, Sr., 2 each

PUNTING: Chris Sailer, Soph., 42.3 avg.

KICKING: Bjorn Merten, Sr., 10-17 FGs (long 45);

36-37 PATs

SCORING: Merten, 66 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 ...at Tennessee

Sept. 14 ...NE LOUISIANA

Sept. 28 ...at Michigan

Oct. 5 ...at Oregon

Oct. 12 ...ARIZONA STATE

Oct. 19 ...at Washington

Oct. 26 ...at California

Nov. 2 ...STANFORD (HC)

Nov. 9 ...WASHINGTON STATE

Nov. 16 ...at Arizona

Nov. 23 ...USC

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...MIAMI (FLA.); W, 31-8

Sept. 9 ...at BYU; W, 23-9

Sept. 16 ...OREGON; L, 38-31

Sept. 23 ...at Washington State; L, 24-15

Sept. 30 ...FRESNO STATE; W, 45-21

Oct. 14 ...ARIZONA; W, 17-10

Oct. 21 ...at Stanford; W, 42-28

Oct. 28 ...CALIFORNIA; W, 33-16

Nov. 4 ...at Arizona State; L, 37-33

Nov. 11 ...WASHINGTON; L, 38-14

Nov. 18 ...at USC; W, 24-20

Nov. 25 ...vs. Kansas in Aloha Bowl; L, 51-30

MILESTONE

■ UCLA's five-game winning streak against USC is its longest in the cross-town rivals' series history. New head coach Bob Toledo is 5-0 in the series: 3-0 as a USC assistant (1976-'78), 2-0 as a UCLA assistant (1994-'95).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- More leadership and consistency from QB Cade McNown, who had an up-and-down year as a freshman.
- Replace four of five interior offensive linemen, including Outland Trophy winner Jonathan Ogden.
- A healthy season from RB Skip Hicks, who must replace Karim Abdul-Jabbar.

By LYLE SPENCER

Rick Neuheisel turned it down. So did Gary Barnett. But Bob Toledo didn't mind being UCLA's third choice, seizing the moment in good humor.

"I probably wasn't [wife] Elaine's first choice, either," said Toledo, "and I've been with her for 28 years." Added Mrs. Toledo, quick with her own punch line: "Actually, he was my fourth choice."

After 20 years, The Terry Donahue Era ended on a high last season—a fifth straight win over cross-town rival USC—and then a sad farewell in the form of a 51-30 loss to Kansas in the Aloha Bowl. Donahue left Westwood for the TV booth having won more games than any coach in Pac-10 history. Toledo, the Bruins' offensive coordinator for two seasons, got the call after Colorado's Neuheisel and Northwestern's Barnett decided not to move.

Last year, Toledo set in motion a wide-open attack that stunned the Trojans on their way to the Rose Bowl and helped UCLA finish third in the Pac-10, averaging 399.3 yards per game. Gone, however, are some valued personnel: Outland Trophy-winning tackle Jonathan Ogden, all-time school reception leader Kevin Jordan and durable running back Karim Abdul-Jabbar, who would have been a leading Heisman Trophy candidate had he returned for his senior season.

Toledo has at the controls sophomore Cade McNown, who started nine games as a true freshman and engineered the upset of USC. If junior Skip Hicks—who Toledo calls a "sensational runner"—can avoid further knee injuries, the loss of Abdul-Jabbar won't be as severe as some anticipate. Hicks, who rushed for 563 yards as a true freshman but has since been slowed by surgery to both knees, has the size and speed to be a star.

OFFENSE: New coordinator Al Borges comes from Oregon's high-tech attack to work with McNown, a developing lefty who, at his best, is in driving the Bruins to TDs in three of their first four possessions against USC, looks like a future All America.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Cade McNown (So., 6-1, 207)*	Steve Buck (So., 6-4, 200)
RB: Skip Hicks (Jr., 6-0, 215)	Akil Davis (So., 5-9, 175)
RB: C. Caldwell (So., 6-1, 231)*	Craig Walendy (So., 6-0, 219)
WR: Jim McElroy (Jr., 5-10, 154)	Eric Scott (Jr., 6-0, 178)*
WR: Derek Ayers (Sr., 5-9, 185)	Tod McBride (So., 6-1, 185)
TE: Mike Grieb (So., 6-3, 240)	Jamal Clark (Sr., 6-5, 250)
LT: Kris Farris (Fr., 6-9, 288)	Dan Cotti (Jr., 6-5, 270)
LG: Chad Sauter (Jr., 6-4, 285)	Darren McClure (Sr., 6-4, 284)
C: Shawn Stuart (So., 6-3, 291)	Matt Phelan (Fr., 6-4, 296)
RG: Chad Overhauser (Jr., 6-5, 281)*	Sean Gully (Jr., 6-4, 267)
RT: Andy Meyers (So., 6-6, 295)	Gene Walters (Sr., 6-6, 306)

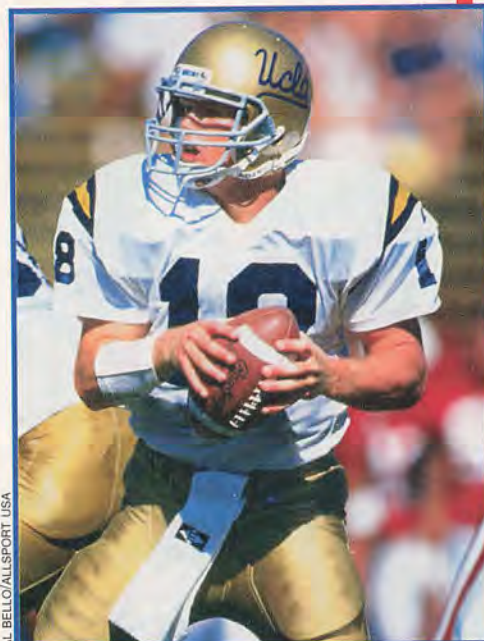
DEFENSE

DE: J. Nevadomsky (Sr., 6-2, 248)	Vae Tata (Jr., 6-3, 245)
DT: Travis Kirschke (Sr., 6-4, 279)	Darren Cline (Jr., 6-4, 265)
DT: Damon Smith (So., 6-3, 260)	Jeff McNeal (Jr., 6-2, 255)
DE: D. Magee (Jr., 6-1, 245)*	Weldon Forde (Jr., 6-1, 230)
LB: Phillip Ward (Sr., 6-2, 226)*	Ryan Neufeld (So., 6-4, 225)
LB: Brian Willmer (Jr., 6-4, 240)*	Jeff Ruckman (Jr., 6-1, 231)
LB: Ramogi Huma (So., 6-1, 216)	Larry Atkins (So., 6-4, 216)
CB: Paul Guidry (Sr., 5-10, 175)*	Andy Colbert (Sr., 5-8, 164)
CB: Javelin Guidry (Jr., 5-10, 160)	Aaron Roques (Jr., 6-1, 188)
SS: A. McCullough (Sr., 6-0, 202)*	Glenn Thompkins (Jr., 5-10, 163)
FS: Shaun Williams (Jr., 6-1, 202)*	Anthony Cobbs (Sr., 6-1, 180)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Bjorn Merten (Sr., 6-0, 201)*	Greg Andrasick (Sr., 5-11, 173)
P: Chris Sailer (So., 5-10, 188)*	Justin Sogaian (Sr., 6-3, 195)

(* denotes returning starter)



CADE McNOWN-QB

McNown has swift wideouts in Jim McElroy, Eric Scott and Derek Ayers and a fine possession receiver in Brad Melsby, but Jordan will be missed. So will Ogden and three other interior starters from last season, leaving junior guard Chad Overhauser to anchor the interior.

"Obviously, this is the area of greatest concern to us offensively," Toledo said. "You just can't replace the combination of talent and experience we lost, but some of our young players have outstanding potential."

DEFENSE: Senior tackle Travis Kirschke, one of the most highly touted defensive linemen ever to come to UCLA, needs to blossom as the leader of this young unit. End Danjuan Magee had his moments and could emerge as a force. "This is probably our least experienced area on defense," Toledo said.

Phillip Ward and Brian Willmer head a good linebacking corps, and the secondary figures to be solid with three starters back, led by safeties Abdul McCullough (team-leading 100 tackles) and Shaun Williams. Brothers Paul and Javelin Guidry man the corners effectively.

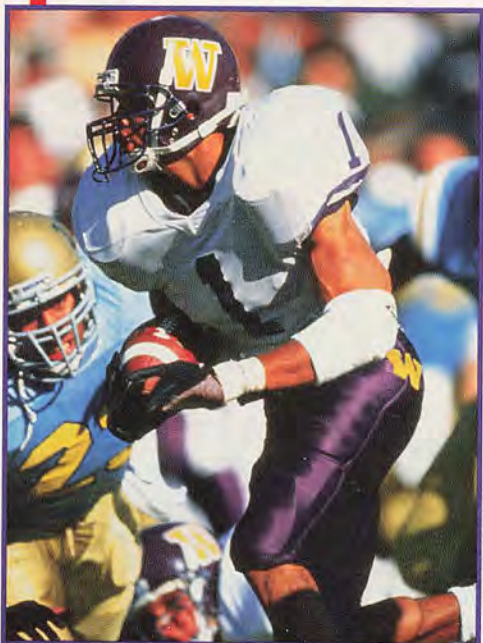
This defense will be tested immediately by Peyton Manning and Tennessee in Knoxville on Sept. 7.

SPECIAL TEAMS: The kicking game is well-stocked with senior kicker Bjorn Merten, still trying to recapture his All-America form as a freshman, and punter Chris Sailer, who finished his freshman year third in the Pac-10 and 17th nationally with a 42.2 average. The return game features Paul Guidry, fifth in the nation in punt returns at 15.4.

RECRUITING: Toledo, after a late start, landed impact DB Damian Allen of Ontario's (Calif.) Damien High and 220-pound running back Durrell Price (Sylmar), the two-time L.A. City Player of the Year who initially committed to Ohio State.

Lyle Spencer is a columnist for the Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise.

WASHINGTON



RASHAAN SHEHEE-RB

AL BELLO/ALSPORT USA

By DAVID KRAFT

Washington emerged from the shadow of probation, went 7-4-1, shared the Pac-10 championship and went to a postseason bowl—good enough for most programs. But you'd have thought the price of double-mocha lattes had doubled to hear some of the Husky faithful when it was all over.

Two games in particular left a bad taste in their mouths—a 21-21 tie with Southern California after the Huskies led by three touchdowns in the second half, and a 38-18 drubbing at the hands of Iowa in the Sun Bowl.

Only Ken Behring and his decision to move the Seahawks changed the topic away from the Huskies on the city's blistering talk radio lines. Coach Jim Lambright, catching some big-time heat during an unusually cold Puget Sound winter, made some changes on his coaching staff, including promoting Scott Linehan to offensive coordinator.

Washington has a potentially dominant running back, a sizable offensive line and some solid linebackers. Still, anything less than the team's first trip to the Rose Bowl since 1993 will be a disappointment.

OFFENSE: Lambright took particular interest in this unit, which shut down at inopportune times last season. Linehan was tabbed as its savior.

The strength is on the offensive line and at running back. Up front Bob Sapp and Lynn Johnson are experienced, and the duo is joined by sophomores Benji Olson and Tony Coats. Olson has a legitimate chance for an all-conference berth.

And, if that group can open even the slightest holes, junior Rashaan Shehee could put even bigger numbers than he did last year, when he led the team with 957 yards (fourth-best in the Pac-10) and 15 touchdowns (tops in the conference). The Huskies are touting Shehee as an All-America candidate in

the mold of Napoleon Kaufman.

The quarterback job is the other side of the coin. Senior Damon Huard threw all but 12 passes for the Huskies last year and led the Pac-10 in passing efficiency, leaving little room for anybody else. Junior Shane Fortney enters camp as the frontrunner while another Huard, Brock, waits in the wings. Five of the top six receivers return, including senior Dave Janoski, the team's leading pass catcher with 40 catches and 657 yards. Junior Fred Coleman and the team's best deep threat, sophomore Andre deSaussure, are also back.

DEFENSE: Washington has a chance to be the best defensive unit in the Pac-10—which says something for a club that gave up two touchdowns a game last year. The bulk of the experience is at linebacker. All-America candidate Ink Aleaga, John Fiala and Jerry Jensen are strong up the middle.

Senior defensive tackle David Richie—another potential all-conference pick at 270 pounds—anchors an undersized defensive line. Defensive end Josh Smith will be counted upon for a pass rush.

The secondary is a definite question mark, as it was a year ago. Talented free safety Lawyer Milloy left school early for the NFL, leaving a huge hole on a unit which gave up 225 passing yards per game last season. Ikaika Mallee had four interceptions last year at rover but moved to linebacker.

SPECIAL TEAMS: This was a disaster area last season. Kicker John Wales returns after kicking 10 field goals. He also returns after missing 10. Punter Geoff Prince (38.4 yards per kick) is also back.

RECRUITING: The Huskies reloaded, but will probably use redshirt years liberally. Keith Cooper was rated as one of the top five tight ends in the country. Tailback Corey Dillon was *College Sports* magazine's JUCO Offensive Player of the Year. Offensive lineman Chad Ward (6-6, 315) was a first-team *USA Today* All America.

David Kraft is a free-lance writer based in Bellevue, Washington.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Shane Fortney (Jr., 6-3, 220)	Brock Huard (Fr., 6-5, 220)
RB: Rashaan Shehee (Jr., 5-11, 200)*	Terry Hollimon (Jr., 5-9, 200)
RB: Mike Reed (So., 6-0, 205)	George Keiako (So., 5-9, 220)
WR: Fred Coleman (Jr., 6-1, 180)*	A. deSaussure (So., 6-2, 200)
WR: Dave Janoski (Sr., 5-10, 180)*	Jerome Pathon (Jr., 5-11, 170)
TE: Cameron Cleeland (Jr., 6-4, 265)	Cam Kissel (Sr., 6-2, 230)
LT: Tony Coats (So., 6-7, 300)	Chris Hoffman (Sr., 6-5, 295)
LG: Bob Sapp (Sr., 6-5, 285)*	Ryan Bradley (Jr., 6-4, 265)
C: Lynn Johnson (Sr., 6-3, 285)	Petrocelli Kesi (Jr., 6-4, 305)
RG: Benji Olson (So., 6-4, 300)*	Ben Kadletz (So., 6-2, 275)
RT: Mostafa Sobhi (Jr., 6-5, 285)	Aaron Dalan (So., 6-7, 300)

DEFENSE

DE: Chris Campbell (Jr., 6-2, 225)	Josh Smith (So., 6-4, 245)
NT: Sekou Wiggs (Jr., 6-4, 270)*	Kurth Connell (Fr., 6-5, 270)
DT: David Richie (Jr., 6-4, 270)*	Chris Lang (So., 6-6, 250)
LB: Jason Chorak (Jr., 6-4, 250)*	Reggie Davis (So., 6-2, 215)
LB: Ink Aleaga (Sr., 6-2, 225)*	Marques Hairston (Fr., 6-2, 210)
LB: John Fiala (Sr., 6-3, 225)	Lester Towns (Fr., 6-3, 240)
LB: Jerry Jensen (Jr., 6-2, 225)*	Ikaika Mallee (So., 5-11, 200)*
SS: Kyle Roberts (Jr., 5-11, 185)	Jeremiah Pharms (Fr., 6-3, 210)
FS: Tony Parrish (Jr., 5-11, 205)*	Nigel Burton (So., 5-9, 180)
CB: Jermaine Smith (Fr., 5-11, 175)	Karl Smith (So., 6-2, 185)
CB: Mel Miller (Fr., 5-11, 170)	Alex Hollowell (Jr., 6-1, 175)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: John Wales (Sr., 5-9, 190)*	Randy Jones (Fr., 6-2, 205)
P: Geoff Prince (Sr., 5-10, 185)*	Ian Hughes (So., 6-1, 180)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Jim Lambright, 4th year, 21-12-1

'95 RECORD: 7-4-1 (6-1-1 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Husky Stadium, Seattle, (72,500, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (5 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Lawyer Milloy, DB (1st-team All America, entered NFL Draft); Ernie Conwell, TE (1st-team All-Pac-10); Trevor Highfield, OL (2nd-team All-Pac-10)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Shane Fortney, Jr., 4-10-105 yards, 1 TD

RUSHING: Rashaan Shehee, Jr., 166 carries, 957 yards, 15 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Dave Janoski, Sr., 40, 2 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Janoski, 657

TACKLES: Ink Aleaga, Sr., 99

SACKS: David Richie, Sr., and Jerry Jensen, Jr., 5 each

INTERCEPTIONS: Ikaika Mallee, Sr., 4

PUNTING: Geoff Prince, Sr., 38.4 avg.

KICKING: John Wales, Sr., 10-20 FGs (long 38); 26-29 PATs

SCORING: Shehee, 90 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 . . .at Arizona State

Sept. 14 . . .BYU

Sept. 21 . . .ARIZONA

Oct. 5 . . .STANFORD

Oct. 12 . . .at Notre Dame

Oct. 19 . . .UCLA

Oct. 26 . . .at Oregon

Nov. 2 . . .at USC

Nov. 9 . . .OREGON STATE (HC)

Nov. 16 . . .SAN JOSE STATE

Nov. 23 . . .at Washington State

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . .ARIZONA STATE; W, 23-20

Sept. 16 . . .at Ohio State; L, 30-20

Sept. 23 . . .ARMY; W, 21-13

Sept. 30 . . .at Oregon State; W, 26-16

Oct. 7 . . .NOTRE DAME; L, 29-21

Oct. 14 . . .at Stanford; W, 38-28

Oct. 21 . . .at Arizona; W, 31-17

Oct. 28 . . .USC; T, 21-21

Nov. 4 . . .OREGON; L, 24-22

Nov. 11 . . .at UCLA; W, 38-14

Nov. 18 . . .WASHINGTON STATE; W, 33-30

Dec. 29 . . .vs. Iowa in Sun Bowl; L, 38-18

MILESTONE

■ With two more home wins, Washington will reach 300 wins at Husky Stadium, where the Huskies hold an overall mark of 298-125-21.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a quarterback who's as efficient as the graduated Damon Huard.
- Get the ball to Rashaan Shehee, who, if he remains healthy, should get to 1,000 yards quickly.
- Cut down on major penalties.



WASHINGTON STATE

By DAVID KRAFT

FACTS

COACH: Mike Price, 8th year, 38-41; 84-85 overall '95 RECORD: 3-8 (2-6 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Martin Stadium, Pullman, Wash. (40,000, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (6 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Dwayne Sanders, DL (2nd-team All-Pac-10); Chris Hayes, LB (2nd-team All-Pac-10); George Martin, P (2nd-team All-Pac-10)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Ryan Leaf, Soph., 52-97-654 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Miguel Meriwether, Soph., 30 carries, 146 yards, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Chad Carpenter, Sr., 2 TDs, and Bryant Thomas, Jr., 2 TDs, 32 each
RECEIVING (YARDS): Carpenter, 415
TACKLES: James Darling, Sr., 83
SACKS: Delmar Morais, Soph., 2
INTERCEPTIONS: Johnny Nansen, Sr., 2
PUNTING: None
KICKING: Tony Truant, Sr., 8-12 FGs (long 51), 26-27 PATs
SCORING: Truant, 50 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...at Colorado
 Sept. 7 ...at Temple
 Sept. 21 ...OREGON
 Sept. 28 ...SAN JOSE STATE
 Oct. 5 ...at Arizona
 Oct. 12 ...at Oregon State
 Oct. 19 ...CALIFORNIA (HC)
 Oct. 26 ...USC
 Nov. 9 ...at UCLA
 Nov. 16 ...at Stanford
 Nov. 23 ...WASHINGTON

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...at Pittsburgh; L, 17-13
 Sept. 9 ...MONTANA; W, 38-21
 Sept. 23 ...UCLA; W, 24-15
 Sept. 30 ...at Nebraska; L, 35-21
 Oct. 7 ...OREGON STATE; W, 40-14
 Oct. 14 ...at USC; L, 26-14
 Oct. 21 ...at Oregon; L, 26-7
 Oct. 28 ...ARIZONA; L, 24-14
 Nov. 4 ...at California; L, 27-11
 Nov. 11 ...STANFORD; L, 36-24
 Nov. 18 ...at Washington; L, 33-30

MILESTONE

■ Washington State has defeated every Pac-10 team at least once in the 1990s, except USC (last win: Oct. 11, 1986) and Stanford (Oct. 14, 1989).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Having started just four career games, quarterback Ryan Leaf must mature quickly.
- Linebacker James Darling, the team's best defender, must stay healthy.
- The Cougars must rebuild confidence after a disappointing '95 season.

If there was a silver lining for Washington State's 1995 season, it was that it ended. If Pullman, Wash., was Broadway, the curtain would have gone down for good at intermission.

The Cougars had hopes of a bowl bid after starting the season 2-1 and beating UCLA. They then played Nebraska closer than anyone all season (two touchdowns at Lincoln in Week 4). The season closed, however, with six straight losses, a quarterback controversy and enough sniping among the ranks to keep talk-show host Jerry Springer busy for a month.

But Pullman is a long way from Broadway. And with more than half of its starters returning, including All-America candidate James Darling, Washington State has no thoughts of a sequel.

Head coach Mike Price vowed to reintroduce the Cougars to the fundamentals, which were sorely lacking last year. Spring practice began two weeks later than usual—Price said it allowed the players to get stronger and into better shape.

"We went back to blocking, to tackling, to what football is all about," Price said.

OFFENSE: Questions abound, especially in the backfield. Veteran Chad Davis lost his quarterback job late last season, then left school in January. In his place is sophomore Ryan Leaf, who completed 54 percent of his passes and threw for 654 yards in four starts. Leaf, a horse at 6-foot-5, 228 pounds, is a better dropback passer than Davis and Price is determined to make use of that. If Leaf, who missed most of the spring drills with an injury, falls, then redshirt freshman Steve Birnbaum will get a quick look.

Washington State also lost its top two runners. Sophomore Miguel Meriwether is the most experienced returnee—and he had 30 carries for 146 yards. Things are better at receiver, though the top two threats graduated here as well. Chad Carpenter and Bryant Thomas each had 32 catches last season—tied for 17th in the Pac-10.

The offensive line is huge—on the right with



JAMES DARLING-LB

321-pound guard Mike Sage and 306-pound tackle Ryan McShane, and on the left with 297-pound guard Jason McEndoo and 292-pound senior Scott Sanderson.

DEFENSE: The Cougars gave up points in bunches last season. Only three times did teams score fewer than 21 points and opponents averaged 29 points a contest during the season-ending six-game losing streak.

Three starters return in the secondary—the place Price looks to as his biggest strength. "When you look at Shad Hinchey, Derek Henderson and Duane Stewart, we have three starters who have all played well for us," he said.

Darling leads a solid, but shallow group of linebackers. In the middle of the Cougars' 4-3 set, Darling led the team in tackles last season with 83—13 of those for losses. Two-year letterman Johnny Nansen had a pair of interceptions last year from the weak-side linebacker spot.

The defensive line has little experience. Price looks to 6-7, 310-pound sophomore tackle Gary Holmes to stabilize a group which has just one senior—6-4, 258-pound end David Evans.

SPECIAL TEAMS: If there's a bright spot on a team without many, this is it. Kicker Tony Truant is back for his senior season after a solid 1995 season. He hit eight of 12 field-goal attempts. Punter Jeff Banks, a junior transfer from Citrus College in California, gets first crack at that job.

RECRUITING: Several transfers will get a long look. Michael Black, a running back from Los Angeles, and Bryan Chiu, a 6-2, 287-pound right guard orphaned when Pacific dropped its program, could see action immediately. A pair of 6-8, 290-pound offensive linemen—twins Ryan and Reed Raymond of Moses Lake, Wash., don't have too far to go in improving their size and strength.

David Kraft is a free-lance writer based in Bellevue, Washington.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE			
QB: Ryan Leaf (So., 6-5, 228)*	Steve Birnbaum (Fr., 6-4, 190)		
RB: M. Meriwether (So., 6-0, 183)	Kwame Stewart (So., 5-10, 228)		
RB: Shawn Tims (Jr., 5-10, 180)	Nep Drummer (So., 5-10, 165)		
WR: Bryant Thomas (Jr., 6-1, 202)*	S. McWashington (Jr., 5-11, 176)		
WR: Chad Carpenter (Sr., 6-0, 191)*	Jason Clayton (So., 5-10, 175)		
TE: David Knoff (Sr., 6-3, 230)	Jon Kincaid (Jr., 6-6, 239)		
LT: Scott Sanderson (Sr., 6-7, 292)*	Rob Rainville (So., 6-5, 318)		
LG: Jason McEndoo (Jr., 6-6, 297)*	Geoff Pierce (So., 6-2, 276)		
C: Cory Withrow (Jr., 6-4, 260)*	Lee Harrison (Jr., 6-2, 270)		
RG: Mike Sage (So., 6-2, 321)	Bryan Chiu (Sr., 6-2, 287)		
RT: Ryan McShane (Jr., 6-7, 306)	Jon Ottenbreit (Fr., 6-6, 258)		
DEFENSE			
DE: David Evans (Sr., 6-4, 258)	Dorian Boose (Jr., 6-6, 270)		
DT: Delmar Morais (So., 6-3, 258)	Jason Stroman (Jr., 5-10, 242)		
DT: Gary Holmes (So., 6-7, 310)*	Takari Blash (Fr., 6-3, 245)		
DE: Shane Doyle (Jr., 6-3, 240)*	Rob Meier (Fr., 6-6, 225)		
LB: Brandon Moore (Jr., 6-0, 220)	Stephen Gleason (Fr., 6-0, 207)		
LB: James Darling (Sr., 6-1, 245)*	Todd Nelson (Jr., 6-3, 230)		
LB: Johnny Nansen (Sr., 6-0, 222)*	Chris Dixon (So., 6-2, 200)		
CB: A. Morankola (So., 5-10, 180)	Tray Crayton (So., 6-1, 175)		
CB: Shad Hinchey (Sr., 5-11, 177)*	Jamel Payton (So., 5-10, 160)		
SS: Duane Stewart (Jr., 6-3, 208)*	Kenny Moore (So., 6-0, 194)		
FS: Derek Henderson (Sr., 6-0, 200)*	Terrell Henderson (Sr., 6-0, 190)		
SPECIAL TEAMS			
K: Tony Truant (Sr., 5-8, 180)*	David Silberstein (Jr., 5-10, 171)		
P: Jeff Banks (Jr., 6-2, 175)	David Silberstein (Jr., 5-10, 171)		
(* denotes returning starter)			

**HAVE A DRINK
ANYTIME, ANYWHERE**

The Floppy Flask

EASY DISPENSER VALVE

**NO HASSLES!
GUARANTEED!**

Ideal for football
games, concerts,
outdoor events.
Great gift idea!

\$12.99 ea.
2 FOR \$19.99

FAST TO DAY DELIVERY

The Portable GAMEDAY Flask that straps around your waist

Flexible, leakproof, re-useable 32oz flask molds to your body

Hides comfortably under your clothes

Easy dispenser valve for enjoyment at any event

**CALL TOLL FREE NOW TO ORDER
1 888 2 flaskiT (1 888 235-2754)**

Add \$2.00 ea. shipping & handling. Visa, Mastercard, Amex. Not sold in stores.
Send check or \$order to GOALPOST Prods. Inc., 1844 N. Nob Hill Rd., #182, FTL, FL 33324

2 SEC

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

PEYTON MANNING, QB, TENNESSEE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

LEONARD LITTLE, DE, TENNESSEE

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR:

TIM COUCH, QB, KENTUCKY

WUERFFEL: A FREQUENT FLIER

Although professional football and a job in public relations top Danny Wuerffel's career wishes, he has a head start on a third occupation—tour guide. Unlike most college students who passed their non-class time in a library or bar, Wuerffel spent his on a 747, traveling to various banquets, award shows and speaking engagements throughout the United States.

That's what happens when you're the record-setting quarterback at Florida. Everybody wants you. An autograph here. A photo there. Instead of sharing a laugh with friends in Gainesville, Fla., you sit in Radio City Music Hall, fighting with Emmitt Smith and Steve Young over who gets the arm rest at the ESPY Awards.

"It's different than anything I've ever experienced," Wuerffel said. "I've done a lot of growing and experienced a lot of things. I

just thank the Lord I haven't gotten stuck in the Atlanta airport for 10 hours."

The Wuerffel Express made stops in such well-known places as Orlando, Dallas and Washington, D.C. In all, Wuerffel visited nine cities following the Gators' dissection by Nebraska in the Fiesta Bowl. That flight to Arizona remains one Wuerffel should have missed, as he completed just 17 of 31 passes, threw three interceptions and was pummeled by the Husker defense to the tune of seven sacks in a 62-24 defeat.

The Nebraska game was the exception. In fact, it's difficult to imagine Wuerffel performing any better in 1996 than he did in '95, when he led his team to a third consecutive SEC title. In the process, Wuerffel set the NCAA single-season pass efficiency record with a rating of 178.4 while throwing 35 touchdowns. With 75 career touchdown passes, Wuerffel needs just 25 more to join former BYU star Ty Detmer as the only Division I-A quarterbacks to throw 100 TDs.

Wuerffel also saved his best for the most important games—sans Nebraska—passing for a combined 824 yards and 10 touchdowns in victories over Florida State and Tennessee. All this added up to a third-place finish in the voting for the Heisman Trophy.

History, however, creates expectations. This season is no different, as Florida once again will challenge the Huskers and Seminoles for the national title.

"We feel we're at a level where we would like to compete for the national championship every year," Wuerffel said. "This year is no different."

The Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., native has done his part to ensure the Gators continued success. Despite his hectic schedule, Wuerffel didn't miss a single workout while maintaining his schoolwork.

And while the trips provided an escape, getting back to campus supplied the awakening.

"I get back home and it's back to reality," Wuerffel said. "It's exciting. It's the chance of a lifetime, but there's still plenty of work to go along with it."

—Chad A. Safran

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EASTERN DIVISION WESTERN DIVISION

1. FLORIDA 1. ALABAMA

2. TENNESSEE 2. AUBURN

3. GEORGIA 3. LSU

4. SOUTH CAROLINA 4. ARKANSAS

5. KENTUCKY 5. MISSISSIPPI ST.

6. VANDERBILT 6. MISSISSIPPI

ALL-SEC TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
QB	PEYTON MANNING	Jr.	6-5/218	TENNESSEE
RB	JAY GRAHAM	Sr.	6-0/206	TENNESSEE
RB	MADRE HILL	Jr.	6-1/194	ARKANSAS
WR	JOEY KENT	Sr.	6-1/184	TENNESSEE
WR	IKE HILLIARD	Jr.	5-11/182	FLORIDA
TE	DAVID LAFLEUR	Sr.	6-7/279	LSU
OL	DONNIE YOUNG	Sr.	6-4/299	FLORIDA
OL	ADAM MEADOWS	Sr.	6-7/280	GEORGIA
OL	JAMAR NESBIT	Soph.	6-4/303	SOUTH CAROLINA
OL	LEONARD THOMAS	Sr.	6-2/284	AUBURN
OL	JEFF MITCHELL	Sr.	6-4/285	FLORIDA

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
DL	LEONARD LITTLE	Jr.	6-3/230	TENNESSEE
DL	CHUCK WILEY	Jr.	6-4/274	LSU
DL	KURT SUPE	Sr.	6-3/270	KENTUCKY
DL	JAY STALLWORTH	Jr.	6-2/255	VANDERBILT
LB	MARCELLUS MOSTELLA	Sr.	6-3/220	AUBURN
LB	MARK SMITH	Sr.	6-3/244	ARKANSAS
LB	DWAYNE CURRY	Sr.	6-3/248	MISSISSIPPI ST.
DB	ANTONE LOTT	Sr.	5-9/192	FLORIDA
DB	DESHEA TOWNSEND	Jr.	5-10/170	ALABAMA
DB	LAWRENCE WRIGHT	Sr.	6-1/209	FLORIDA
DB	KEVIN JACKSON	Sr.	6-1/200	ALABAMA

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
PK	JEFF HALL	Soph.	6-0/182	TENNESSEE
P	CHAD KESSLER	Jr.	6-1/189	LSU
RS	REIDEL ANTHONY	Jr.	5-11/176	FLORIDA

3 BIGGEST GAMES

1. FLORIDA AT TENNESSEE, SEPT. 21: MAY BE THE MARQUEE MATCHUP OF THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL SEASON. PEYTON MANNING VS. DANNY WUERFFEL. LAST YEAR'S NO. 2 (FLORIDA) VS. NO. 3 (TENNESSEE).

2. LSU AT AUBURN, SEPT. 21: IT'S NOT QUITE FLORIDA-TENNESSEE, BUT THE BATTLE OF TIGERS COULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD DECIDING THE SEC WEST CHAMP. LSU WON A DEFENSIVE STRUGGLE LAST SEASON, 12-6.

3. ALABAMA AT TENNESSEE, OCT. 26: SHOULD THE VOLS GET PAST THE GATORS, THE TIDE IS THE ONLY TEAM THAT CAN STEM TENNESSEE'S RUN AT 11-0.



CRAG JONES/ALLSPORT USA

Danny Wuerffel's 75 career touchdown passes are the most in SEC history.

FLORIDA



IKE HILLIARD-WR

ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT USA

By CHRIS HARRY

In 1995, Florida had far and away its greatest season ever. The Gators soared to rousing victories against rivals Tennessee, Auburn and Florida State, then crushed Arkansas in the Southeastern Conference championship game, as Steve Spurrier joined Alabama legend Paul "Bear" Bryant as the only coaches ever to win three consecutive out-right SEC titles.

But all those marvelous achievements were burned to a crisp in the Fiesta Bowl, where Nebraska torched the Gators, 62-24.

So this off-season, Spurrier dipped into Nebraska's conference and plucked Kansas State defensive coordinator Bob Stoops—whose Wildcats led the nation in total defense in 1995—in an attempt to upgrade his defensive unit.

OFFENSE: Quarterback Danny Wuerffel threw for 3,266 yards, an SEC-record 35 touchdowns and set an NCAA Division I-A record for passing efficiency last season. He finished third in the Heisman Trophy balloting after leading his team to the first unbeaten regular season in school history.

Despite the loss of second-team All-America and SEC record-breaking wideout Chris Doering, the Gators have an arsenal of weapons at receiver and in the backfield. No preseason All-America list should be without Ike Hilliard, who is on pace to shatter the league's receiving marks. Reidel Anthony and Jacquez Green are two more big-play types, although Green is coming off a broken hip suffered in the bowl game.

Florida returns three starting offensive linemen, with Mo Collins making the switch from right to left tackle. Spurrier would love a more reliable running attack and has a rich enough stable of backs to provide improvements. Last year, Elijah Williams, Terry Jackson and Fred Taylor each started at one time and all had huge games. The trio returns, with redshirt freshman Eugene McCaslin joining the mix.

DEFENSE: As co-defensive coordinator and secondary coach at Kansas State, Stoops helped oversee a defense that limited opponents to 250.8 yards per game last season. Even more impressive: Nebraska managed only 600 total yards in its two tries against K-State during the Huskers' two national title runs, including a 262-yard showing.

Stoops' philosophy is to stop the run with seven or eight men in the box and then fan out to aggressive man-to-man defense on the corners. In Gainesville, where the Gators annually sign top-10 recruiting classes, he'll have vastly superior athletes to work with, starting with a secondary—led by strong safety Lawrence Wright and four-year starter Anthonie Lott—that returns intact.

For the second straight season, the Gators must replace three starting defensive linemen, but red-shirt freshmen Ernie Badeaux and Reggie McGrew will be heard from quickly.

SPECIAL TEAMS: The Gators punted only 34 times all season and attempted just 12 field goals.

The unit's biggest loss came when special teams coordinator Ron Zook left to assume the same post with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Under Zook, Florida broke school records for blocked kicks in each of the last two seasons, including six punts in 1995.

RECRUITING: For the sixth consecutive year, the Gators inked a class rated among the top 10 in the country. They addressed needs on the defensive front, signing *Parade* All-America Thaddeus Bullard and raiding enemy territory in Tallahassee for *USA Today* first-teamer Buck Gurley.

Pennsylvania prep star tailback Daymon Carroll is another *Parade* All-America team member, while offensive lineman Zac Zedalis, from nearby Alachua, Fla., is considered the No. 1 guard prospect in the country by many recruiting experts. Fort Lauderdale wide receiver Craig Dudley is the nephew of Dallas Cowboys superstar Michael Irvin.

Chris Harry covers the Gators for the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Danny Wuerffel (Sr., 6-2, 209)*	Eric Kresser (Sr., 6-2, 209)
RB: Elijah Williams (Jr., 5-10, 180)*	Terry Jackson (So., 5-11, 200)
RB: Jerome Williams (Sr., 6-1, 236)*	Dwayne Mobley (Sr., 5-10, 227)
WR: Ike Hilliard (Jr., 5-11, 182)*	J. Richardson (Fr., 5-10, 177)
WR: Reidel Anthony (Jr., 5-11, 176)	Jacquez Green (So., 5-9, 170)
TE: Tremayne Allen (Sr., 6-2, 230)*	Shawn Nunn (Sr., 6-3, 252)
LT: Mo Collins (So., 6-5, 308)*	Cooper Carlisle (Fr., 6-5, 282)
LG: Ryan Kalich (Fr., 6-3, 281)	Deac Story (So., 6-5, 284)
C: Jeff Mitchell (Sr., 6-4, 285)*	C. Yarbrough (Fr., 6-2, 281)
RG: Donnie Young (Sr., 6-4, 299)*	Elijah Brown (Jr., 6-3, 317)
RT: Zach Piller (So., 6-5, 299)	Pat Browning (So., 6-4, 307)

DEFENSE

DE: Cameron Davis (Sr., 6-4, 261)	Willie Cohens (So., 6-2, 253)
DT: Ed Chester (So., 6-4, 276)*	Reggie McGrew (Fr., 6-2, 295)
DT: Keith Council (Jr., 6-4, 276)	Ernie Badeaux (Fr., 6-4, 278)
DE: Tim Beauchamp (So., 6-2, 255)	Willie Rogers (Jr., 6-1, 257)
LB: James Bates (Sr., 6-1, 228)*	Keith Kelsey (Fr., 6-0, 221)
LB: Johnny Rutledge (So., 6-2, 224)	Kevin Walton (Jr., 6-0, 215)
LB: Mike Peterson (So., 6-1, 208)	Jevon Kearse (Fr., 6-5, 235)
CB: Fred Weary (Jr., 5-10, 177)*	Shea Showers (Sr., 5-11, 165)
CB: Anthonie Lott (Sr., 5-9, 192)*	Ronnie Battle (Jr., 5-8, 176)
SS: Lawrence Wright (Sr., 6-1, 209)*	Demetric Jackson (Sr., 6-0, 178)
FS: Teako Brown (So., 5-11, 187)*	Mike Harris (Jr., 6-0, 187)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Bart Edmiston (Sr., 5-11, 175)*	Matt Teague (Sr., 6-1, 176)
P: Robby Stevenson (So., 6-1, 188)*	Matt Teague (Sr., 6-1, 176)

(* denotes returning starter)



FACTS

COACH: Steve Spurrier, 7th year, 61-13-1; 81-26-2 overall

'95 RECORD: 12-1 (9-0 conf.)

FINAL RANKINGS: No. 2 AP, No. 3 USA Today/CNN HOME STADIUM: Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at Florida Field (83,000, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (8 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Jason Odom, OL (1st-team All-America); Chris Doering, WR (2nd-team All-America); Reggie Green, OL (1st-team All-SEC); Mark Campbell, DL (1st-team All-SEC); Ben Hanks, LB (1st-team All-SEC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Danny Wuerffel, Sr., 210-325-3,266

yards, 35 TDs, 10 INTs

RUSHING: Elijah Williams, Jr., 114 carries, 858

yards, 7 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Ike Hilliard, Jr., 57, 15 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Hilliard, 1,008

TACKLES: Lawrence Wright, Sr., 109

SACKS: Wright and Willie Cohens, Soph., 2 each

INTERCEPTIONS: Wright and Demetric Jackson, Sr., 3 each

PUNTING: Robby Stevenson, Soph., 38.3 avg.

KICKING: Bart Edmiston, Sr., 6-12 FGs (long 47), 71-71 PATs

SCORING: Hilliard, 90 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	..SW LOUISIANA
Sept. 7	..GEORGIA SOUTHERN
Sept. 21	..at Tennessee
Sept. 28	..KENTUCKY
Oct. 5	..at Arkansas
Oct. 12	..LSU (HC)
Oct. 19	..AUBURN
Nov. 2	..vs. GEORGIA*
Nov. 9	..at Vanderbilt
Nov. 16	..SOUTH CAROLINA
Nov. 30	..at Florida State

* at the Gator Bowl, Jacksonville, Fla.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	..HOUSTON; W, 45-21
Sept. 9	..at Kentucky; W, 42-7
Sept. 16	..TENNESSEE; W, 62-37
Sept. 30	..MISSISSIPPI; W, 28-10
Oct. 7	..at Louisiana State; W, 28-10
Oct. 14	..at Auburn; W, 49-38
Oct. 28	..at Georgia; W, 52-17
Nov. 4	..N. ILLINOIS; W, 58-20
Nov. 11	..at South Carolina; W, 63-7
Nov. 18	..VANDERBILT; W, 38-7
Nov. 25	..FLORIDA STATE; W, 35-24
Dec. 2	..vs. Arkansas in SEC Champ.; W, 34-3
Jan. 2	..vs. Nebraska in Fiesta Bowl; L, 62-24

MILESTONE

■ Danny Wuerffel needs 25 touchdown passes to become the second quarterback in Division I-A history to reach 100.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Get more physical and aggressive on defense.
- Find more consistency in running game.
- Grow up in a hurry on the defensive line.



GEORGIA

FACTS

COACH: Jim Donnan, 1st year
'95 RECORD: 6-6 (3-5 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Sanford Stadium, Athens, Ga. (86,117, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (7 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Troy Stark, OL (2nd-team All-SEC); Paul Taylor, OL (2nd-team All-SEC); Whit Marshall, LB (2nd-team All-SEC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Hines Ward, Jr., 69-112-872 yards, 2 TDs, 3 INTs
RUSHING: Torin Kirtsey, Soph., 134 carries, 603 yards, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Juan Daniels, Sr., 46, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Daniels, 726
TACKLES: Greg Bright, Jr., 93
SACKS: Kirby Smart, Soph., 3
INTERCEPTIONS: Corey Johnson, Sr., 3
PUNTING: Dax Langley, Jr., 39.5
KICKING: Langley, 1-2 FGs (long 34), 2-2 PATs
SCORING: Robert Edwards, Sr., 42 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ... SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
 Sept. 14 ... at South Carolina
 Sept. 21 ... TEXAS TECH
 Oct. 5 ... at Mississippi State
 Oct. 12 ... at Tennessee
 Oct. 19 ... VANDERBILT (HC)
 Oct. 26 ... at Kentucky
 Nov. 2 ... vs. Florida*
 Nov. 16 ... at Auburn
 Nov. 23 ... MISSISSIPPI
 Nov. 30 ... GEORGIA TECH
 *at Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, Jacksonville, Fla.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ... SOUTH CAROLINA; W, 42-23
 Sept. 9 ... at Tennessee; L, 30-27
 Sept. 16 ... NEW MEXICO STATE; W, 40-13
 Sept. 23 ... at Mississippi; L, 18-10
 Sept. 30 ... ALABAMA; L, 31-0
 Oct. 7 ... at Clemson; W, 19-17
 Oct. 14 ... at Vanderbilt; W, 17-6
 Oct. 21 ... KENTUCKY; W, 12-3
 Oct. 28 ... FLORIDA; L, 52-17
 Nov. 11 ... AUBURN; L, 37-31
 Nov. 23 ... at Georgia Tech; W, 18-17
 Dec. 30 ... vs. Virginia in Peach Bowl; L, 34-27

MILESTONE

■ Georgia looks for its first win over arch-rival Florida since 1989 and hopes to break an 0-6 streak against Gators coach Steve Spurrier.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Mike Bobo and Robert Edwards regain early-season form of last year.
- Defense continues to grow under Joe Kines.
- New coach Jim Donnan mends factioned Bulldog supporters.

By CHRIS HARRY

Following the 1994 season, Georgia athletic director Vince Dooley issued head coach Ray Goff an edict: "Show me significant improvement or else!" As it turned out, a 6-6 record and a berth in the Peach Bowl weren't enough.

In a truly weird November and December, Dooley dismissed Goff, but agreed to let him stay on and coach his team in the bowl game. Dooley hired Kansas coach Glen Mason on Dec. 18. But on Christmas Day, Mason had a change of heart and stayed with the Jayhawks.

Marshall University coach Jim Donnan was then given the best Christmas gift of his life when Dooley telephoned to offer him the job. Donnan wasn't home at the time—he was out jogging. However, in a matter of hours, one of the nation's top Division I-AA coaches elected to make a mad dash to Georgia. Donnan had led Marshall to the 1992 I-AA national crown and three national runner-up finishes in his six seasons.

OFFENSE: With tailback Robert Edwards and quarterback Mike Bobo healthy, the Bulldogs opened last season like they could play with anybody. In six quarters against South Carolina and Tennessee, Edwards rushed 45 times for 325 yards and six touchdowns before breaking a bone in his foot. Bobo averaged 265 yards passing through three games before injuring a knee against Ole Miss.

With both players healthy in 1996, Georgia should improve point production. That was a major problem last season, as the Dawgs scored only 18 touchdowns in 40 trips inside the 20, and only 14 in 28 tries inside the 10.

The return of Edwards should allow last year's quarterback, Hines Ward, to move back to wide receiver, where he'll team with split end Juan Daniels, the Dawgs' leader in catches (46), yards (726) and touchdowns (five) last season.

The offensive line has three starters to replace, but incumbents Resty Beadles and Adam Meadows form a decent foundation.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

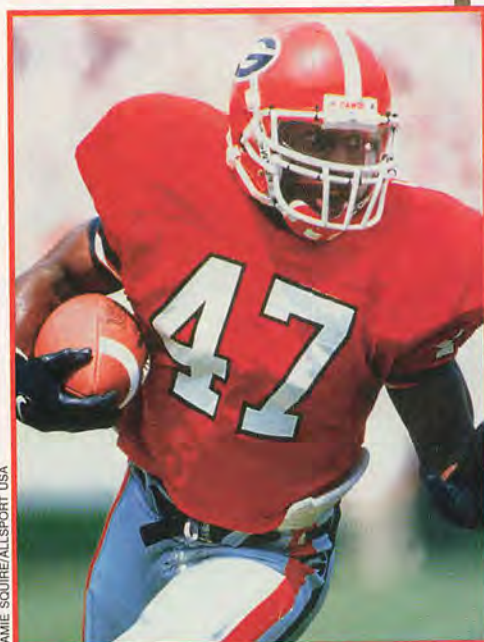
QB: Mike Bobo (Sr., 6-2, 206)* Brian Smith (Sr., 6-3, 205)
RB: Robert Edwards (Sr., 6-2, 208) Torin Kirtsey (So., 6-0, 175)*
RB: Selma Calloway (Sr., 5-11, 200)* Marisa Simpson (Sr., 5-11, 230)
WR: Juan Daniels (Sr., 6-2, 195)* Chris McCranie (Sr., 5-11, 185)
WR: Hines Ward (Sr., 6-1, 194) Corey Allen (So., 6-3, 109)
TE: Larry Brown (So., 6-5, 250)* Michael Taylor (Sr., 6-3, 248)
LT: Adam Meadows (Sr., 6-7, 280)* David Powell (Sr., 6-7, 293)
LG: Resty Beadles (Sr., 6-3, 294)* Sean Tremblay (Sr., 6-3, 280)
C: Brad Stafford (Sr., 6-3, 283) Brooks Brodie (So., 6-3, 260)
RG: Antonio Fleming (Sr., 6-4, 299) Kenley Ingram (Sr., 6-2, 320)
RT: Matt Stinchcomb (So., 6-7, 280) Steve Herndon (Sr., 6-5, 299)

DEFENSE

DE: Chris Terry (So., 6-7, 260) Paul Snellings (So., 6-4, 277)
DT: Keith Drayton (Sr., 6-2, 290) Brandon Miller (Fr., 6-3, 280)
NT: Jermaine Smith (Sr., 6-3, 275)* Travis Stroud (Sr., 6-3, 274)
DE: Derrick Byrd (Sr., 6-5, 257) Paul Snellings (So., 6-4, 277)
LB: Bryan Jones (Sr., 6-0, 218) Lawson Cooper (So., 6-2, 251)
LB: Greg Bright (Sr., 6-2, 225)* D.J. Johnson (Sr., 6-3, 238)
LB: Brandon Tolbert (Sr., 6-2, 221)* Gene Toodle (Sr., 6-3, 242)
CB: Ronald Bailey (Sr., 6-0, 187) Alandus Sims (Sr., 6-1, 194)*
CB: Kirby Smart (So., 6-0, 181) Erik Robinson (Sr., 6-1, 205)
SS: Armin Love (So., 6-1, 192)* Reggie Smith (Sr., 6-3, 190)
FS: Corey Johnson (Sr., 5-11, 190)* Trey Sipe (Sr., 6-0, 193)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Dax Langley (Sr., 6-2, 178) Craig Ford (Sr., 6-5, 209)
P: Dax Langley (Sr., 6-2, 178)* Hap Hines (Fr., 5-10, 170)
 (* denotes returning starter)



ROBERT EDWARDS-RB

DEFENSE: The Bulldogs lost some important people, but the most important guy back could be defensive coordinator Joe Kines, one of only two holdovers from Goff's staff.

Under Kines, the unit made strides in defending the run—a big problem in previous years—allowing only seven rushing touchdowns and 136.2 yards per game. The Dawgs expect to be solid at defensive tackle, led by Keith Drayton, Jermaine Smith and Travis Stroud, but are severely untested on the ends.

Brandon Tolbert (74 tackles) was a pleasant surprise filling in for injured linebacker Randall Godfrey last season. With Godfrey and leading tackler Whit Marshall gone, Greg Bright (second-best 93 tackles in 1995) must step up even more.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Dax Langley, who punted as a freshman last season, is expected to assume the place-kicking chores as well. One area Donnan wants desperately to improve is kick coverage. The Dawgs gave up far too many big plays last season. In the loss to Virginia in the Peach Bowl, the Cavaliers had more return yards than total offense. Look for more playmakers, and fewer reserves and scout-team types, to be put on kick coverage.

RECRUITING: It went pretty well, considering the coaching transition. The Bulldogs landed *USA Today* first-team All America running back Patrick Pass, as well as *Sports Illustrated* cover boy Marcus Stroud, a heralded defensive lineman who had a signing-day change of heart and reneged on his commitment to SEC rival Florida. Quarterback Mike Usry, out of Tallahassee, Fla., passed for 2,260 yards and 23 touchdowns as a senior.

The Dawgs could get immediate help from linebacker Rich Robich, a transfer from Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College, and defensive back Champ Bailey, a *Parade* All-America selection from Folkston, Ga.

Chris Harry covers SEC football for the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune.

KENTUCKY



BILLY JACK HASKINS-QB

By JOHN CLAY

Just when it appeared Bill Curry had saved his job, had taken a couple of steps forward with his struggling Kentucky football program, the Wildcats took a couple of off-season steps back.

After following a horrendous 1-10 season in 1994 with an improving 4-7 mark in 1995, Curry pulled off another coup by earning a commitment from Leslie County (Ky.) quarterback Tim Couch (see story, pg. 170), considered by many the nation's top prep prospect.

But before Couch even had his name on the dotted line, the "Cats lost the other half of what Kentucky fans believed would be a stellar backfield when Moe Williams, the Southeastern Conference's leading rusher last year (1,600 yards), decided to make himself eligible for the NFL a year early. And if that weren't enough, in early March defensive coordinator Mike Archer, who in 1993 and 1995 turned a porous UK defense into a respectable unit, departed to become linebackers coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The question is, can Kentucky turn those two subtractions into an addition?

OFFENSE: Couch may be a prep hero who broke all the nation's high school passing records, but junior Billy Jack Haskins will enter the season as the No. 1 quarterback. The gritty Haskins took over as the starter in the third game and UK went 4-5 the rest of the way. He separated a shoulder three games from the end of the season, yet he gutted it out until the final quarter in a season-ending 34-31 loss to then-No. 4 Tennessee.

"Coach Curry has told me I'm No. 1 until someone beats me out," Haskins said.

The offensive line is set, thanks to three returning starters and the expertise of line coach Elliot Uzelac, who whipped the unit into shape.

Williams' shoes will be by far the biggest to fill. Raymond McLaurin, a senior who rushed for 260

yards, is the incumbent. McLaurin replaced an injured Williams and rushed for 107 yards in UK's 24-16 win over bowl-bound LSU.

DEFENSE: The loss of Archer is a blow, but Rick Smith, promoted to defensive coordinator, is an excellent secondary coach who has been with Curry at Kentucky from the start. Smith will play the same 4-3 scheme Archer employed.

Smith has some talent, too. End Kurt Supe led the SEC in sacks with five until breaking his arm in the fourth game. He's back, as is middle linebacker Mike Schellenberger, who led the 'Cats with 104 tackles a year ago. Leman Boyd (3 INTs), Kiyo Wilson and Van Hiles head up a secondary with some experience.

The 'Cats biggest need is speed on the perimeter, especially at linebacker. Dele Ali, a converted strong safety, will get a look at outside linebacker.

SPECIAL TEAMS: The kicking game suffered on both ends last year. Tobin Anderson, a junior college transfer from Riverside, Calif., could turn out to be the answer. He must beat out returnee Jimmy Carter (35.6-yard average) for the punting job. Placekicker, on the other hand, is a wide open contest between Anderson, junior Bill Coleman and junior walk-on Brian Johnson, who hit all nine PATs last season.

RECRUITING: Couch was the biggest catch. The 6-foot-5, 215-pounder from Hyden, Ky., chose his home state school over Tennessee, Auburn, Florida, Florida State and Ohio State. The decision came down to the Wildcats and Volunteers, with Couch saying he wanted to "start my own line of great quarterbacks" at Kentucky.

Still, even with Couch, Kentucky's recruiting haul ranks near the bottom of the SEC. But, said Curry, "I'm the one who had the worst classes in the history of whatever, and they went on to win the national championship twice [once each at Georgia Tech and Alabama—both after Curry departed]."

John Clay covers the Wildcats for the Lexington Herald-Leader.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: B.J. Haskins (Fr., 6-1, 189)*	Tim Couch (Fr., 6-5, 215)
RB: Ray McLaurin (Sr., 6-0, 210)	Anthony White (Fr., 6-1, 184)
WR: Kevin Coleman (So., 5-10, 185)	Kio Sanford (Fr., 5-11, 169)
WR: Craig Yeast (So., 5-9, 162)	Marvin Love (Fr., 5-10, 153)
TE: Isaac Curtis III (Sr., 6-3, 243)*	Larry Coleman (Fr., 6-2, 255)
TE: Darrin Clark (Fr., 6-5, 249)	Marcus Cross (Fr., 6-4, 227)*
LT: Kris Comstock (So., 6-8, 286)	D. DeLaPerralle (Fr., 6-6, 270)
LG: John Schlarman (Fr., 6-2, 263)*	D. Honaker (Sr., 6-1, 285)
C: Jason Watts (So., 6-3, 257)	Dan Rossman (Fr., 6-3, 245)
RG: Brandon Jackson (Fr., 6-4, 285)*	David Berringer (So., 6-4, 269)
RT: Jonas Liening (So., 6-8, 287)*	Jeremy Streck (So., 6-5, 282)

DEFENSE

DE: Kurt Supe (Sr., 6-3, 270)*	Jeff Tanner (Sr., 6-2, 244)
DT: Mark Jacobs (So., 6-3, 270)	Quincy Bell (So., 6-3, 266)
DT: Marvin Major (So., 6-3, 267)*	Thad Corbin (Fr., 6-3, 266)
DE: Jason Thomas (So., 6-5, 277)	Chris Ward (Sr., 6-4, 264)*
LB: Lamont Smith (Fr., 6-2, 230)*	David Ginn (Fr., 6-5, 218)
LB: M. Schellenberger (Sr., 6-0, 226)*	Bob Holmberg (Fr., 6-0, 236)
LB: Dele Ali (Fr., 6-3, 212)	Anwar Stewart (Fr., 6-3, 218)
CB: Tony Woods (So., 5-10, 166)	Chris Ford (So., 6-1, 176)
CB: Van Hiles (Sr., 6-0, 186)*	Littleton Ward (Fr., 5-9, 166)*
SS: Leman Boyd (Sr., 5-10, 205)*	Frank Crossman (Fr., 5-10, 197)
FS: Kiyo Wilson (Sr., 5-11, 202)*	Stephan Walters (So., 6-0, 184)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Brian Johnson (Fr., 5-8, 164)	Bill Coleman (Fr., 6-0, 197)
P: Jimmy Carter (So., 6-0, 174)*	Tobin Anderson (Fr., 6-0, 195)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Bill Curry, 7th year, 22-45; 79-98-4 overall '95 RECORD: 4-7 (2-6 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Commonwealth Stadium, Lexington, Ky. (57,800, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (6 off., 9 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Reggie Rusk, FS (2nd-team All-SEC); Moe Williams, RB (1st-team All-SEC; dedared early for NFL draft)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Billy Jack Haskins, Jr., 93-154-1,176 yards, 4 TDs, 6 INTs

RUSHING: Raymond McLaurin, Sr., 60 carries, 260 yards, 2 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Craig Yeast, Soph., 24, 2 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Yeast, 337

TACKLES: Mike Schellenberger, Sr., 104

SACKS: Kurt Supe, Sr., 5

INTERCEPTIONS: Leman Boyd, Sr., 3

PUNTING: Jimmy Carter, Soph., 35.6 avg.

KICKING: Brian Johnson, Jr., 1-1 FGs (long 33), 9-9 PATs

SCORING: Haskins, 24 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	...LOUISVILLE
Sept. 7	...at Cincinnati
Sept. 21	...INDIANA
Sept. 28	...at Florida
Oct. 5	...at Alabama
Oct. 12	...SOUTH CAROLINA
Oct. 19	...at LSU
Oct. 26	...GEORGIA (HC)
Nov. 9	...MISSISSIPPI STATE
Nov. 16	...VANDERBILT
Nov. 23	...at Tennessee

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	...LOUISVILLE; L, 13-10
Sept. 9	...FLORIDA; L, 42-7
Sept. 16	...at Indiana; W, 17-10
Sept. 23	...at S. Carolina; W, 35-30
Sept. 30	...AUBURN; L, 42-21
Oct. 14	...LSU; W, 24-16
Oct. 21	...at Georgia; L, 12-3
Oct. 28	...at Mississippi State; L, 42-32
Nov. 4	...at Vanderbilt; L, 14-10
Nov. 11	...CINCINNATI; W, 33-14
Nov. 18	...TENNESSEE; L, 34-31

MILESTONE

■ A winning record would be the team's first since 1989, as well as the first under Curry—although his team did go 6-6 with a Peach Bowl appearance in '93.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a credible replacement for Moe Williams, the SEC's top rusher in '95.
- A smooth transition from Mike Archer to Rick Smith at defensive coordinator.
- A smooth adjustment to college football for prep sensation Tim Couch.



SOUTH CAROLINA

By CHRIS HARRY

FACTS

COACH: Brad Scott, 3rd year, 11-11-1
'95 RECORD: 4-6-1 (2-5-1 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, S.C. (80,250, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 12 (5 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: James Dexter, OL (2nd-team All-SEC); Eric Sullivan, DL (2nd-team All-SEC); Monty Means, WR; Stanley Pritchett, FB; Ronnie Smith, LB; Steve Taneyhill, QB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Anthony Wright, Soph., 17-27-207 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Duce Staley, Sr., 127 carries, 736 yards, 8 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Zola Davis, Soph., 58, 9 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Davis, 911
TACKLES: Ben Washington, Jr., 93
SACKS: Maynard Caldwell, Sr., 5
INTERCEPTIONS: 4 tied with one each
PUNTING: Steve Florio, Soph., 32.0 avg.
KICKING: Reed Morton, Sr., 7-10 FGs (long 42), 38-43 PATs
SCORING: Staley, 60 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 ...CENTRAL FLORIDA
 Sept. 14 ...GEORGIA
 Sept. 21 ...EAST CAROLINA
 Sept. 28 ...MISSISSIPPI STATE (HC)
 Oct. 5 ...at Auburn
 Oct. 12 ...at Kentucky
 Oct. 19 ...ARKANSAS
 Oct. 26 ...at Vanderbilt
 Nov. 2 ...TENNESSEE
 Nov. 16 ...at Florida
 Nov. 23 ...at Clemson

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...at Georgia; L, 42-23
 Sept. 9 ...at Arkansas; L, 51-21
 Sept. 16 ...LOUISIANA TECH; W, 68-21
 Sept. 23 ...KENTUCKY; L, 35-30
 Sept. 30 ...LOUISIANA STATE; T, 20-20
 Oct. 7 ...KENT; W, 77-14
 Oct. 14 ...at Mississippi State; W, 65-39
 Oct. 21 ...VANDERBILT; W, 52-14
 Oct. 28 ...at Tennessee; L, 56-21
 Nov. 11 ...FLORIDA; L, 63-7
 Nov. 18 ...CLEMSON; L, 38-17

MILESTONE

■ Williams-Brice Stadium will expand its seating capacity to 80,250 with the opening of the south end zone seats this season.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Better tackling.
- Finding a successor to Steve Taneyhill.
- Take advantage of four straight home games to open the season.

Brad Scott's first season at South Carolina ended with 7,000 adoring fans at Columbia Metropolitan Airport braving freezing temperatures to greet the first victorious bowl team in school history. His second season ended with a home loss to hated Clemson, just seven days after being bludgeoned, 63-7, by Florida on national television.

Scott, the longtime Florida State offensive whiz, has seen his share of extremes in his short Palmetto State stay. The Gamecocks' rousing successful first season under Scott was richly satisfying, but it merely fueled unrealistic expectations for his second. Last year, South Carolina was woefully weak on defense and had nowhere near enough talent on the offensive line to challenge in the SEC East.

Some key skill position players are gone, including record-setting quarterback Steve Taneyhill and workhorse fullback Stanley Pritchett. Scott has recruited very well, but the Gamecocks are far from challenging the league's heavyweights.

OFFENSE: Taneyhill started the team's last 40 games, shattering 12 school records. Last season, he commanded a unit that finished 10th nationally in scoring at 36.5 points per game, despite a miserable season-ending slide of just 45 combined points in three ugly defeats. Inexperienced sophomores Anthony Wright (127 career attempts) and Chad Barnhardt (one) will battle to be Taneyhill's successor.

Sophomore wide receiver Zola Davis (58 catches, 911 yards, 9 TDs) is a potential big-time player if the Gamecocks can get settled at quarterback, maybe even if they don't.

Scott, who favors the fast-break offense he— and a guy named Charlie Ward—helped make famous at FSU, would love to have balance in his attack with senior tailback Duce Staley, the club's leading rusher (736 yards) last season, the likely ground-game focal point. Three starting offensive



DUCE STALEY-RB

linemen return, including SEC All-Freshman pick Jamar Nesbit and junior guard Travis Whitfield.

DEFENSE: The poor-tackling Gamecocks finished next to last in the conference in total defense in 1995, giving up 419 yards per game while surrendering 40 points a game in SEC play.

Enter new defensive line coach Rick Petri from Miami (Fla.) and secondary coach Bruce Johnson from North Carolina. Both were outstanding position coaches for their previous teams, and Scott expects significant gains in both areas.

Three of four starting linemen return, but tackle Henry Taylor and ends Selvesta Miller and Maynard Caldwell must be stronger than a year ago. In the defensive backfield, junior strong safety Ben Washington, a two-year starter, has all-conference ability. Sophomore free safety Arturo Freeman made the SEC All-Freshman team in 1995.

One player to watch is junior linebacker Darren Hambrick, who transferred last year following two fine seasons at Florida after being dismissed from the squad for his part in a fight with a teammate at a Sugar Bowl function.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Both starting kicker Reed Morton and backup punter Steve Florio return, but the Gamecocks' kicking duties may in time fall to heralded incoming freshman Courtney Leavitt, a Parade and USA Today All America from Germantown, Tenn. Leavitt made 12 of 18 field goals as a senior, with bombs from 62, 60, 57 and 54 yards. He also averaged 45.6 yards per punt, with a state-record 80-yarder.

RECRUITING: At Florida State, Scott was regarded as a bulldog recruiter and has maintained that reputation by keeping his ties to the talent-rich Sunshine State. Of his 31 signees, 16 hail from Florida, with two potential impact players in fullback Jacob Bush and linebacker Jeff Chaney.

Chris Harry covers SEC football for the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE	
QB: Anthony Wright (So., 6-2, 185)	Chad Barnhardt (So., 6-1, 214)
RB: Duce Staley (Sr., 5-11, 207)*	Scott Moritz (Jr., 5-10, 190)
RB: Steve Mixon (Fr., 5-11, 209)	John Harkleroad (Sr., 6-1, 188)
WR: Corey Bridges (Sr., 5-6, 166)	Kerry Hood (So., 6-0, 192)
WR: Zola Davis (So., 6-1, 192)*	Marcus Robinson (Sr., 6-4, 205)
TE: Jason Lawson (Sr., 6-1, 230)	Trevon Matthews (Fr., 6-2, 240)
LT: Reggie Baker (Jr., 6-7, 290)	Randy Wheeler (Sr., 6-2, 296)*
LG: Ed Hrubiec (Jr., 6-1, 279)	Jesse Washington (Jr., 6-5, 299)
C: Paul Beckwith (Jr., 6-3, 277)	Jason Thomas (Fr., 6-3, 256)
RG: Travis Whitfield (Jr., 6-4, 295)*	Nick Ruhman (Fr., 6-4, 255)
RT: Jamar Nesbit (So., 6-4, 303)*	Andray Spearman (So., 6-4, 285)
DEFENSE	
DE: Maynard Caldwell (Sr., 6-1, 238)*	Quinn Brodie (Sr., 6-1, 244)
DT: Henry Taylor (Jr., 6-1, 274)*	Patrick Garth (Sr., 6-4, 282)
DT: Michael Maddox (Jr., 6-3, 270)	Casey Allen (Fr., 6-3, 245)
DE: Selvesta Miller (Jr., 6-3, 245)*	J.J. Brown (Jr., 6-2, 246)
LB: Darren Hambrick (Jr., 6-2, 215)	Corey Atkins (Fr., 6-1, 215)
LB: Shane Burnham (Jr., 5-11, 219)	Jody Caldwell (So., 6-1, 221)
LB: Benji Young (Sr., 6-0, 210)	Errol Rochester (Fr., 6-0, 230)
CB: Terry Cousin (Sr., 5-9, 176)	Lee Wiggins (Jr., 5-11, 203)
CB: Joe Troupe (Sr., 5-8, 185)*	Jason Joseph (Fr., 5-10, 187)
SS: Ben Washington (Jr., 5-11, 196)*	Chris Abrams (Sr., 6-0, 167)
FS: Arturo Freeman (So., 6-1, 185)*	Ray Green (Fr., 6-3, 183)
SPECIAL TEAMS	
K: Reed Morton (Sr., 5-8, 183)*	Courtney Leavitt (Fr., 6-0, 210)
P: Steve Florio (So., 5-9, 194)	Courtney Leavitt (Fr., 6-0, 210)
(* denotes returning starter)	

(* denotes returning starter)

TENNESSEE



JAY GRAHAM-RB

By MIKE STRANGE

When you fill a 102,000-seat stadium, reel in a succession of top-10 recruiting classes and send players like Heath Shuler and Peyton Manning into the huddle at quarterback, expectations have a tendency to run high at a place like Tennessee. Welcome to 1996, the year expectations have moved up to the proverbial next level.

After coming so close to the national title last year, the fans' mandate is out: Win it all, and nothing less. With Manning at quarterback for his third season, surrounded by plenty of high-powered playmates, the Vols should be their usual high-scoring selves. The only hitch will be how quickly a rebuilt offensive line shapes up. Defense has been Tennessee's bane, but Vols fans hope defensive end Leonard Little and pals can turn it up a notch. The schedule is favorable—both Florida and Alabama must come to Neyland Stadium—and the Vols play nine games within the state borders.

OFFENSE: What team wouldn't swap its quarterback for Manning? The junior is 18-2 as a starter, owns a brilliant command of the game and, given the work ethic he attributes to his famous father, Archie, there's no doubt Manning will be even better in 1996. Aiding Manning will be the return of his two favorite targets—Joey Kent (69 catches, 1,055 yards) and Marcus Nash (43, 512).

Tennessee's already-potent running game will complement Manning's passes even better this fall. Jay Graham, fresh from a school-record 1,438-yard rushing season, is back and should be joined by Brian Darden, the prized 1995 signee who sat out last year due to eligibility problems. The line lost three three-year starters, but Tennessee always has offensive linemen to spare. Jarvis Reado, Robert Poole and Trey Teague each snuck in a few starts last year.

DEFENSE: This remains the question mark. Do you

get the unit Florida shredded for 62 points or the one that held Ohio State to 14 in the Citrus Bowl? Tennessee won three other games last year only because Manning & Co. scored a bunch of points, and that must change if Phillip Fulmer's group is to win a national title. Little (11 sacks) is a devastating pass rusher, but the Vols need another player like him on the other side.

Linebacker is something of a mystery. Tyrone Hines is All-SEC material in the middle, but both outside spots are up for grabs, with Al Wilson and either Craig King or Anthony Hampton likely candidates.

The secondary lost a stopper in cornerback DeRon Jenkins but gets one back in free safety Jason Parker, who returns from a one-year suspension. Parker never misses a tackle. Raymond Austin rebounded last year from a sophomore slump in 1994 and could be a star at corner or safety. Touted freshman Dwayne Goodrich will have a chance to win a job at corner before the year's over.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Kicker Jeff Hall was clutch as a red-shirt freshman, nailing two field goals from 50-plus yards. Punting was a different story. Junior college All America Larry Binion (35.9 avg.) proved to be an adept pooch punter, but too many of his long balls were real dogs.

RECRUITING: Despite another top-10 class, the big one got away. The Vols desperately wanted Tim Couch to be Manning's backup and eventual successor but finished runner-up to homestate Kentucky. Tennessee recovered by snatching Tamaurice Martin of Mobile, Ala., a highly regarded run-pass combo player, away from Auburn. Goodrich, from Oak Lawn, Ill., was touted as the top cornerback in the nation, so he rates as a big score at a position always tough to fill.

At 6-4, 295 pounds, Bernard Gooden (N.Y. Yankees pitcher Dwight's cousin) of Bradenton, Fla., looks like a potential star on the offensive line.

Mike Strange covers the Volunteers for the Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Peyton Manning (Jr., 6-5, 215)*	Shawn Snyder (Fr., 6-3, 205)
RB: Jay Graham (Sr., 6-0, 206)*	Mark Levine (So., 5-11, 177)
RB: Chester Ford (Sr., 6-0, 228)*	Eric Lane (Sr., 6-2, 217)
WR: Marcus Nash (Jr., 6-3, 190)*	Andy McCullough (Jr., 6-3, 201)
WR: Joey Kent (Sr., 6-1, 184)*	Benjie Shuler (Jr., 6-2, 175)
TE: Scott Pfeiffer (Sr., 6-5, 245)*	Dustin Moore (So., 6-3, 226)
LT: Trey Teague (Jr., 6-5, 275)	Brent Gibson (Sr., 6-4, 275)
LG: Jarvis Reado (Jr., 6-5, 284)	Jeremy Shadrick (So., 6-4, 295)
C: Sam Pinner (Jr., 6-4, 272)	Mark Ingram (Sr., 6-0, 243)
RG: Robert Poole (Jr., 6-3, 291)*	Diron Robinson (So., 6-3, 262)
RT: Chad Clifton (Fr., 6-7, 290)	Brad Lampley (Jr., 6-5, 256)

DEFENSE

DE: Leonard Little (Jr., 6-3, 230)*	Billy Ratliff (Fr., 6-3, 265)
DE: Bill Duff (Jr., 6-3, 260)	M. Hamilton (So., 6-3, 280)
DE: Billy Beron (Jr., 6-3, 265)*	Ron Green (So., 6-1, 265)*
DE: Jonathan Brown (Jr., 6-4, 265)	Jeff Coleman (So., 6-4, 237)
LB: Al Wilson (So., 6-2, 222)	Shawn Johnson (Fr., 6-2, 210)
LB: Tyrone Hines (Sr., 6-0, 228)*	Antron Peebles (So., 6-3, 227)
LB: Craig King (Sr., 6-0, 221)	A. Hampton (Jr., 6-5, 210)
CB: Raymond Austin (Sr., 5-11, 181)*	Steve Johnson (Jr., 5-11, 175)
CB: Terry Fair (Jr., 5-11, 175)*	Troy Pratt (Sr., 5-11, 170)
SS: Tori Noel (Jr., 6-0, 182)*	Fred White (Fr., 5-11, 185)
FS: Jason Parker (Sr., 6-0, 192)	Cory Gaines (Jr., 5-11, 185)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Jeff Hall (So., 6-0, 182)*	Chris Hogue (Jr., 6-1, 188)
P: Larry Binion (Sr., 6-3, 190)*	Chris Hogue (Jr., 6-1, 188)

(* denotes returning starter)



FACTS

COACH: Phillip Fulmer, 5th year, 32-7-1

'95 RECORD: 11-1 (7-1 conf.)

FINAL RANKINGS: No. 3 AP, No. 2 USA

Today/CNN

HOME STADIUM: Neyland Stadium, Knoxville, Tenn. (102,000, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (7 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Jason Layman, OL (2nd-team All America); Jeff Smith, OL (1st-team All-SEC);

DeRon Jenkins, DB (1st-team All-SEC); Bubba

Miller, OL (2nd-team All-SEC); Shane Burton, DL

(2nd-team All-SEC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Peyton Manning, Jr., 244-380-2,954

yards, 22 TDs, 4 INTs

RUSHING: Jay Graham, Sr., 272 carries, 1,438

yards, 12 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Joey Kent, Sr., 69, 9 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Kent, 1,055

TACKLES: Tyrone Hines, Sr., 78

SACKS: Leonard Little, Jr., 11

INTERCEPTIONS: Raymond Austin, Sr., 3

PUNTING: Larry Binion, Sr., 35.9 avg.

KICKING: Jeff Hall, Soph., 16-25 FGs (long 53),

47-49 PATs

SCORING: Hall, 95 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 . . . UNLV

Sept. 7 . . . UCLA

Sept. 21 . . . FLORIDA

Oct. 3 . . . vs. Mississippi*

Oct. 12 . . . at Georgia

Oct. 26 . . . ALABAMA

Nov. 2 . . . at South Carolina

Nov. 9 . . . at Memphis

Nov. 16 . . . ARKANSAS (HC)

Nov. 23 . . . KENTUCKY

Nov. 30 . . . at Vanderbilt

*at Liberty Bowl, Memphis, Tenn.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . . EAST CAROLINA; W, 27-7

Sept. 9 . . . GEORGIA; W, 30-27

Sept. 16 . . . at Florida; L, 62-37

Sept. 23 . . . MISSISSIPPI STATE; W, 52-14

Sept. 30 . . . OKLAHOMA STATE; W, 31-0

Oct. 7 . . . at Arkansas; W, 49-31

Oct. 14 . . . at Alabama; W, 41-14

Oct. 28 . . . SOUTH CAROLINA; W, 56-21

Nov. 4 . . . SOUTH MISSISSIPPI; W, 42-0

Nov. 18 . . . at Kentucky; W, 34-31

Nov. 25 . . . VANDERBILT; W, 12-7

Jan. 1 . . . vs. Ohio State in Citrus Bowl, W, 20-14

MILESTONE

■ Tennessee has won its last 19 games during the month of November and owns a 40-1 November mark since 1985, the only blemish being a 34-29 loss to Notre Dame (in Knoxville) in 1990.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Replace three seniors on the offensive line.
- Get more production at linebacker out of the two new starters.
- Protect Peyton Manning because there's no experience behind him.

FACTS

COACH: Rod Dowhower, 2nd year, 2-9; 7-14-1 overall
'95 RECORD: 2-9 (2-6 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Vanderbilt Stadium, Nashville, Tenn. (41,000, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 15 (5 off., 9 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: James Manley, DL (1st-team All-SEC); Jermaine Johnson, RB (left early for NFL Draft); Ronnie Gordon, QB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Damian Allen, Jr., 62-136-728 yards, 4 TDs, 7 INTs
RUSHING: Marcus Forrest Jr., 13 carries, 22 yards
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Duane Todd, Jr., 21, 1 TD
RECEIVING (YARDS): Todd, 289 yards
TACKLES: Jamie Duncan, Jr., 120
SACKS: Jay Stallworth, Jr., 6
INTERCEPTIONS: DeReal Finklin, Sr., 3
PUNTING: Bill Marinangel, Sr., 42.7 avg.
KICKING: Brett Speakman, Soph., 1-2 FGs (long 31), 1-1 PAT
SCORING: Allen and Fred Baker, Soph., 12 points each

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5 ... NOTRE DAME
 Sept. 14 ... at Alabama
 Sept. 21 ... MISSISSIPPI
 Oct. 5 ... at LSU
 Oct. 12 ... at North Texas
 Oct. 19 ... at Georgia
 Oct. 26 ... SOUTH CAROLINA (HC)
 Nov. 2 ... ALA.-BIRMINGHAM
 Nov. 9 ... FLORIDA
 Nov. 16 ... at Kentucky
 Nov. 30 ... TENNESSEE

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ... ALABAMA; L, 33-28
 Sept. 16 ... at Notre Dame; L, 41-0
 Sept. 23 ... TCU; L, 16-3
 Sept. 30 ... ARKANSAS; L, 35-7
 Oct. 14 ... GEORGIA; L, 17-6
 Oct. 21 ... at South Carolina; L, 52-14
 Oct. 29 ... at Mississippi; L, 21-10
 Nov. 4 ... KENTUCKY; W, 14-10
 Nov. 11 ... LOUISIANA TECH; W, 29-6
 Nov. 18 ... at Florida; L, 38-7
 Nov. 25 ... at Tennessee; L, 12-7

MILESTONE

■ If Vanderbilt's basketball team is looking for any shot-blockers, it need look no further than the Commodores' special teams, which blocked five punts and a combination of six PAT/field-goal attempts last season.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Mold an offensive line that can give the sputtering running game a chance.
- Settle on a quarterback who can take the passing game in the direction coach Rod Dowhower wants it to go.
- Cut down on an SEC-high 25 turnovers.

By MIKE STRANGE

To many in college football, NFL veteran Rod Dowhower seemed a curious choice to replace Gerry DiNardo at Vanderbilt last season. After seven losses to open the season, he seemed an even more curious choice. Things got better in November, however, as Vandy beat Kentucky and Louisiana Tech, played Florida respectable, and nearly upset Tennessee. But where do the Commodores go from there?

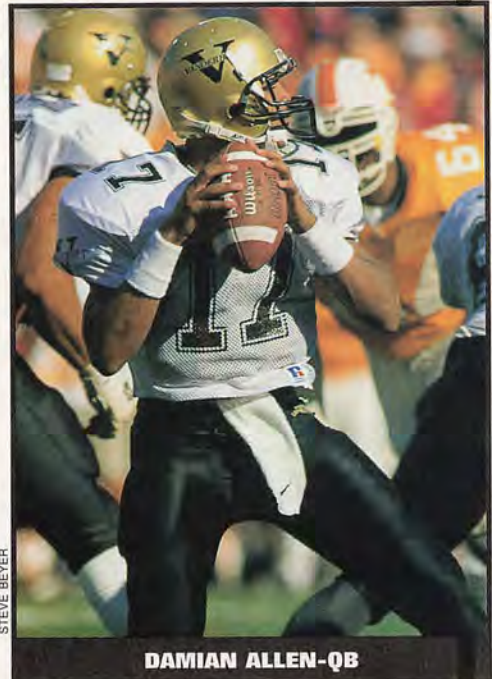
A competitive defense will once again have to keep games close while the offense struggles in the continuing transition from DiNardo's option game to Dowhower's pro-style passing attack. The good news is nine starters return on a defense that held five opponents under 20 points. The bad news is the best threat on an unthreatening offense, 1,000-yard tailback Jermaine Johnson, decided to turn pro.

Vandy goes to fall camp with four quarterbacks, including incumbent Damian Allen, hoping to find a decent passer. The Commodores finished last in the SEC in virtually every offensive category in 1995, averaging only 230.4 total yards per game—more than 100 yards behind 11th-place Kentucky—and scored just one touchdown or less in seven of 11 games.

OFFENSE: There's no shortage of problems to solve here, but the most important are up front. Only two starters on the offensive line, center Jim Anguiano and tackle Allen DeGraffenreid, return. Without improvement here, the revamped running game isn't going anywhere.

Under DiNardo's regime, the Commodores were usually near the top of the SEC rushing stats, but last season they plummeted to last place, averaging a paltry 120.8 yards per game. The untested tandem of Marcus Forrest and Tyrone Yarbrough will be tested. Marcus A. Williams, a safety last year, even auditioned at running back in the spring.

The passing game should be a little better, now that Allen comes into the season with some mea-



DAMIAN ALLEN-QB

sure of confidence. He started five games last year and was an improvement over since-departed Ronnie Gordon, who was recruited to run DiNardo's option.

DEFENSE: This is a much happier picture, although the one missing starter along the line is a big loss. Departed tackle James Manley finished second among SEC interior linemen in tackles. At end, Brian Boykin is back for his fourth year and Jay Stallworth (team-leading six sacks) his second. Matt Schuckman, at 260 pounds, is a little light at tackle, but he's quick and makes plays (four sacks, six tackles for a loss).

Jamie Duncan heads an active linebacking corps. He caught coordinator Woody Widenhofer's eye last year, making 20 tackles against Notre Dame. Eric Vance, the team's second-leading tackler (90) in his first year at strong safety, and cornerback Corey Chavous spearhead the secondary. Fred Vinson starred on special teams as a true freshman and grabbed a starting cornerback spot in the spring.

SPECIAL TEAMS: A good high school punter should want to sign with Vanderbilt over, say, Florida, if he wants to get any work. If that was Bill Marinangel's thinking, he was correct. He punted a whopping 70 times last year (more than twice as many as Florida's punter), breaking his own personal best of 68 in 1993. Marinangel's 42.7-yard average was second-best in the SEC.

RECRUITING: It's not hard to figure out Vandy's priorities. The Commodores signed seven offensive linemen and six receivers. The staff is also optimistic about quarterback Gerald Reeder from Evansville, Ind. An excellent baseball prospect, Reeder was reportedly overlooked by some schools who thought he would pursue a career on the mound. He passed on a baseball scholarship to Arizona to throw passes for Vanderbilt.

Mike Strange covers SEC football for the Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE			
QB: Damian Allen (Jr., 6-2, 184)*	Jamail Carter (Fr., 6-2, 190)		
RB: Marcus Forrest (Jr., 5-9, 184)	Tyrone Yarbrough (Jr., 5-10, 177)		
HB: J. Dunnivant (So., 6-1, 231)	Paul Morgan (Jr., 5-11, 221)		
WR: Duane Todd (Jr., 6-3, 210)*	Bobby Jackson (Jr., 5-10, 186)		
WR: Robert Simmons (Jr., 5-8, 167)	Bobby Jackson (Jr., 5-10, 186)		
TE: Jason Tomichuk (Sr., 6-3, 254)*	Marcus E. Williams (Jr., 6-4, 244)		
LT: A. DeGraffenreid (Sr., 6-4, 271)*	Shawn Wilson (So., 6-3, 274)		
LG: Will Jacobs (Jr., 6-3, 291)	Myron Murray (So., 6-3, 280)		
C: Jim Anguiano (So., 6-2, 268)*	Walt Pitts (Sr., 6-3, 235)		
RG: Derrick May (So., 6-2, 265)	Myron Murray (So., 6-3, 280)		
RT: Clay Condney (So., 6-4, 255)	David Coppeans (So., 6-4, 275)		
DEFENSE			
DE: Jay Stallworth (Jr., 6-2, 255)*	Glenn Young (Jr., 6-3, 247)		
DT: Matt Schuckman (Sr., 6-4, 260)*	Jason Hill (Jr., 6-3, 246)		
DT: A. Harvey (So., 6-3, 280)	Jason Smith (So., 6-2, 310)		
DE: Brian Boykin (Sr., 6-3, 270)*	Kenny Christian (So., 6-2, 240)		
LB: Carlton Hall (Jr., 6-0, 235)*	Mark Jefcoat (Sr., 6-2, 224)*		
LB: Jamie Duncan (Jr., 6-1, 230)*	John Bradley (So., 6-0, 220)		
LB: Antony Jordan (Jr., 6-3, 216)	Darweshi Miles (So., 6-0, 230)		
CB: Corey Chavous (So., 6-0, 202)*	Rosevelt Noble (So., 5-10, 191)		
CB: Fred Vinson (So., 5-11, 170)	Damien Charley (So., 5-9, 175)		
SS: Eric Vance (Sr., 6-3, 214)*	Robert Sheffield (Jr., 6-0, 186)		
FS: DeReal Finklin (Sr., 5-9, 183)*	Rahim Batten (So., 5-9, 199)		
SPECIAL TEAMS			
K: B. Speakman (So., 5-11, 170)	Don Gallardo (Fr., 6-4, 190)		
P: Bill Marinangel (Sr., 6-2, 215)*	Jeff Vining (So., 6-1, 185)		
	(* denotes returning starter)		



Fast-Paced, Hard-Hitting and Action-Packed... that's *The Georgia Bulldog Magazine*, the only official magazine of UGA Athletics.

Your subscription will give you more than just the scores... You'll get an in-depth, behind-the-scenes look at the people, places and things that make the Georgia athletic tradition among the richest in the nation.

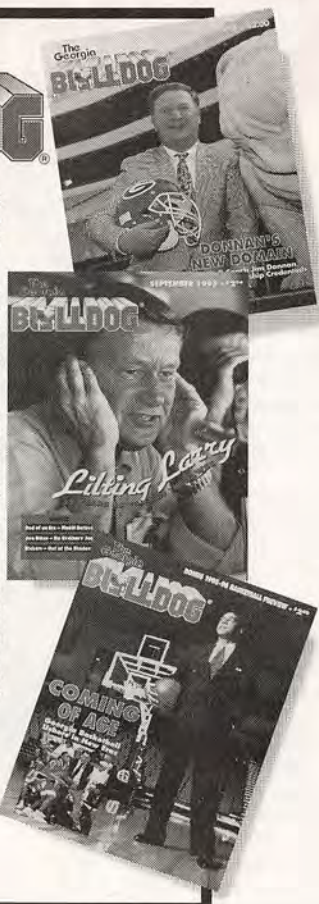
As a subscriber to *The Georgia Bulldog Magazine*, you can reminisce about past Bulldog greats as we look back at those who built the tradition. Follow the stars of the future as we look at recruiting as well. And, of course, we provide the most extensive coverage you'll ever find of current Georgia standouts.

The Georgia Bulldog Magazine is your ticket to all this and more 13 times a year, including special football and basketball preview editions. And that's not all. You'll also receive 11 weekly newsletters during football season and six bi-weekly newsletters during basketball. In all...

30 issues for just \$30!

Subscribe today! Send a \$30 check to:
The Georgia Bulldog Magazine
P.O. Box 1472 • Athens, GA • 30603

For more information, call
(706) 542-3944



MICHIGAN FANS

Follow The Wolverines Throughout The Year

THE WOLVERINE covers all Michigan sports with an emphasis on football and basketball. The 24- to 72-page tabloid newspaper is published 25 times a year, weekly during football season, twice a month from December to March and monthly April through August.

• Complete football and basketball game coverage with

detailed game and season-to-date statistics

• Post-game player and coach comments • Opponent previews • Player features and historical articles • Extensive Olympic-sport coverage • Comprehensive recruiting coverage • Prep report • And much more...

1 year (25 issues) \$39.95



FREE

with your paid subscription

1996 Football Recruiting Issue

Includes detailed profiles of each 1996 signee, a review of Big Ten recruiting and a look at next season's top prospects

The Wolverine • Dept. BG • P.O. Box 1304 • Ann Arbor, MI 48106

☐ YES! Please start my one-year (25 issues) subscription to *The Wolverine* for \$39.95 and send me the FREE Football Recruiting issue. Canadian subscriptions are \$64.95.

☐ My check or money order is enclosed. Check # _____

☐ Charge to my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx Exp. Date _____

Card No. _____

Charges will appear on your credit card statement as Coman Publishing Co., Inc.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For Faster Service On Credit Card Orders, Call

1-800-421-7751

**NOBODY COVERS UT SPORTS LIKE RTN
... NOBODY! ... PERIOD! ...**

Rocky Top News

"The Bible of Tennessee Sports"

**FOR THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE
OF UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SPORTS ANYWHERE**

33 ISSUES FOR \$39.95*

(*Tennessee residents add \$3 sales tax)

READERS OF ROCKY TOP NEWS ENJOY:

- ★ FOOTBALL IN EVERY ISSUE ★
 - ★ IN-DEPTH RECRUITING NEWS ★
 - ★ GAME STORIES, PLAYER FEATURES ★
 - ★ AWARD-WINNING COLUMNISTS ★
 - ★ VOL AND LADY VOL BASKETBALL ★
 - ★ BASEBALL, SOFTBALL AND MUCH MORE ★
- ALL JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY!**

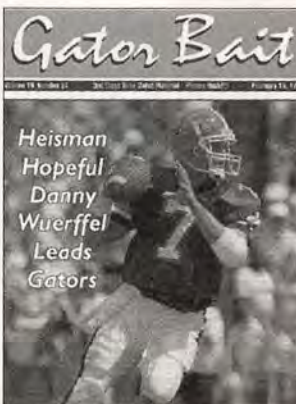
**1-800-828-VOLS
(1-800-828-8657)**

**VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED
SUBSCRIBE NOW!**

OR MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
ROCKY TOP NEWS, P.O. Box 53192, KNOXVILLE, TN. 37950

The Only News Source For Serious GATOR Fans

Subscribe to Gator Bait today!



Nobody covers the Gators like *Gator Bait*. Each action-packed subscription includes 32 issues of *Gator Bait*, with weekly coverage throughout football, basketball and recruiting season. Plus, copies of *Florida Football* and *Florida Basketball*, our in-depth preseason guides to the Gator football and basketball teams.

32 issues for \$47

Fla. residents add 6% sales tax

BECOME THE MOST INFORMED GATOR AROUND!

Credit Card Orders Call 1-800-782-3216

Send check or money order to:

GATOR BAIT
PO Box 14022, Gainesville, FL 32604

CS2



ALABAMA

FACTS

COACH: Gene Stallings, 7th year, 60-13-1; 87-58-2 overall
'95 RECORD: 8-3 (5-3 conf.)
FINAL RANKING: No. 21 AP
HOME STADIUM: Bryant-Denny Stadium, Tuscaloosa, Ala. (70,123, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 18 (8 off., 9 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Shannon Brown, DL (1st-team All-SEC); Michael Proctor, K (2nd-team All-SEC); John Walters, LB (2nd-team All-SEC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Freddie Kitchens, Jr., 63-127-811 yards, 3 TDs, 5 INTs
RUSHING: Dennis Riddle, Jr., 236 carries, 969 yards, 8 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Riddle, 23, 1 TD
RECEIVING (YARDS): Riddle, 150
TACKLES: Dwayne Rudd, Jr., 91
SACKS: Darrell Blackburn, Sr., 10
INTERCEPTIONS: Kevin Jackson, Sr., 5
PUNTING: Hayden Stockton, Sr., 40.9 avg.
KICKING: None
SCORING: Riddle, 54 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...vs. Bowling Green*
 Sept. 7 ...vs. Southern Mississippi*
 Sept. 21 ...vs. Arkansas**
 Sept. 14 ...VANDERBILT
 Oct. 5 ...KENTUCKY (HC)
 Oct. 12 ...at North Carolina State
 Oct. 19 ...MISSISSIPPI
 Oct. 26 ...at Tennessee
 Nov. 9 ...at LSU
 Nov. 16 ...at Mississippi State
 Nov. 23 ...vs. Auburn*
 *at Legion Field, Birmingham, Ala.
 **at War Memorial Stadium, Little Rock, Ark.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...at Vanderbilt; W, 33-25
 Sept. 9 ...SOUTHERN MISS.; W, 24-20
 Sept. 16 ...ARKANSAS; L, 20-19
 Sept. 30 ...at Georgia; W, 31-0
 Oct. 7 ...N.C. STATE; W, 27-11
 Oct. 14 ...TENNESSEE; L, 41-14
 Oct. 21 ...at Mississippi; W, 23-9
 Oct. 28 ...NORTH TEXAS; W, 38-19
 Nov. 4 ...LSU; W, 10-3
 Nov. 11 ...MISSISSIPPI STATE; W, 14-9
 Nov. 18 ...at Auburn; L, 31-27

MILESTONE

■ Despite the fact that NCAA probation kept Alabama out of the bowl picture last season, the Crimson Tide remains the all-time leader in bowl appearances (47) and bowl wins (27).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Veteran offensive line must take charge, giving young skill players time to evolve.
- Defense must return to trademark form to ensure Tide's role in the Bowl Alliance.
- Is this Gene Stallings' final season?

By DOUG SEGREST

Maybe it wasn't the Bolshevik Revolution, but it was close—this one received more press coverage—with coach Gene Stallings eventually solidifying his position after surviving a bloodless coup. A year under NCAA probation didn't help matters, but widely reported staff disgruntlement eventually forced the departure of both coordinators: Defensive whiz Bill Oliver, once considered Stallings' successor, left on his own accord for arch-rival Auburn, and offensive brain trust Homer Smith, whose high-tech style clashed with Stallings' conservative philosophy, took a job at Arizona.

Stallings promoted from within the staff to fill the vacancies. Long-time line coach Mike Dubose was elevated on defense. On offense, the post went to receivers coach Woody McCorvey.

Will the changes rock Stallings' world? Probably not. There's still plenty of talent on hand, especially on offense (the entire line returns, as well as strong-armed quarterback Freddie Kitchens), plus the new coordinators fit Stallings' system better.

What may have a bigger impact is a more difficult schedule. The real test comes during a three-game stretch beginning Oct. 26, when the Tide visits Tennessee, LSU and Mississippi State in succession. The last two times Alabama played the same three SEC rivals on the road—1992 and '94—it finished the regular season unbeaten.

OFFENSE: It all begins at running back, where Bama has a strong stable. Tops on the list is Dennis Riddle, who missed the 1,000-yard mark by just 31 yards after a slow start as a sophomore. But the biggest story of the spring was oft-injured Curtis Alexander, who made a lasting impression and will see time.

Who will hand off to Riddle and Co. is a mystery. Kitchens finished 1995 as the starter, throwing for 302 yards against Auburn, but he failed to establish himself as the clear-cut choice during the spring, leaving Warren Foust in the picture.

All five starters return to the offensive line, bol-



DENNIS RIDDLE-RB

JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT USA

stered by newcomers Brenon Meadows (transfer from Louisville) at guard and redshirt freshman Chris Samuels. Lack of depth is more obvious at wide receiver, but Marcell West, Calvin Hall and Michael Vaughn are potential deep threats. More important to the Tide's future by air is getting the ball to tight ends Patrick Hape and Rod Rutledge. "Our main problem was that we didn't score enough points," Stallings said. "I expect to see some improvement."

DEFENSE: Dubose won't be able to shuffle as many linemen as he did a year ago, but he may have similar results. Ends Chris Hood and Darrell Blackburn are both capable of getting to any quarterback. The linebacking corps is solid with one spectacular asset in outside linebacker Dwayne Rudd.

The biggest change in the Alabama secondary will be simplification. Former LSU and Southern Mississippi head coach Curley Hallman replaces Oliver. If the change is effective, it will be because cornerback Deshea Townsend and safety Kevin Jackson, a duo that combined for nine interceptions a year ago, force the issue more often in man-to-man.

SPECIAL TEAMS: The departure of kicker Michael Proctor leaves a major void. Brian Cunningham and Ryan Pflugner, a walk-on freshman, are the leading candidates to replace him. Hayden Stockton has a solid grip on the punting duties.

RECRUITING: With limited scholarships for a second consecutive year, Alabama had to gamble its future by focusing almost entirely on linemen. The move could pay defensive dividends immediately with JUCO transfer Michael Myers on defense and long-term with Parade All America Heath Panks. Fullback Dustin McClintock, an unheralded prospect from Texas, gets a chance in August to contend for time at fullback. ☐

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Freddie Kitchens (Jr., 6-2, 230)* Warren Foust (So., 6-2, 205)
RB: Dennis Riddle (Jr., 6-0, 195)* Curtis Alexander (Jr., 6-1, 195)
RB: Ed Scisum (Jr., 6-0, 210)* Trevis Smith (So., 6-0, 223)
WR: Marcell West (Sr., 5-11, 177) Chad Goss (Jr., 5-11, 175)
WR: Calvin Hall (So., 6-4, 190) Michael Vaughn (So., 6-1, 185)
TE: Patrick Hape (Sr., 6-4, 239) Rod Rutledge (Jr., 6-5, 270)
LT: Chris Samuels (Fr., 6-6, 274) Joel Holliday (Jr., 6-5, 270)*
LG: B. Meadows (Jr., 6-3, 250) Will Friend (Jr., 6-2, 265)*
C: John Causery (Sr., 6-2, 262)* Mookie Moore (Fr., 6-4, 280)
RG: Laron White (Sr., 6-2, 275)* Jeremy Pennington (Sr., 6-2, 272)
RT: Pete DiMario (Sr., 6-4, 276)* Jason McDonald (Fr., 6-6, 299)

DEFENSE

DE: Chris Hood (So., 6-1, 278)* Michael Myers (Jr., 6-4, 275)
DT: Ozell Powell (Sr., 6-5, 318) Edgar Walker (Jr., 6-5, 251)
DT: Eric Kerley (Jr., 6-1, 290)* Kelvin Moore (Sr., 6-3, 258)
DE: Darrell Blackburn (Sr., 6-4, 224)* Anthony Dowdell (Sr., 6-1, 226)
LB: Paul Pickett (Jr., 6-2, 220) Ralph Staten (Sr., 6-4, 200)*
LB: Fernando Davis (Sr., 6-2, 245) Tyrell Buckner (Sr., 6-0, 245)
LB: Dwayne Rudd (Jr., 6-2, 232)* Lamont Floyd (Sr., 6-2, 240)
CB: Fernando Bryant (So., 6-0, 175)* Thomas Hill (Fr., 5-10, 175)
CB: D. Townsend (Jr., 5-10, 170)* Tracy High (Sr., 5-9, 175)
SS: Kevin Jackson (Sr., 6-1, 200)* Andre Short (Jr., 5-11, 196)
FS: Cedric Samuel (Sr., 5-9, 186)* Kelvin Sigler (So., 6-1, 179)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: B. Cunningham (So., 5-9, 175) Ryan Pflugner (Fr., 5-11, 175)
P: Hayden Stockton (Sr., 6-0, 204)* Daniel Pope (So., 6-0, 191)
 (* denotes returning starter)

Doug Segrest covers SEC football for the Birmingham (Ala.) News.

ARKANSAS



MADRE HILL-RB

By RON HIGGINS

Ask Danny Ford about the progress of his Arkansas program, particularly the talent level, and he's bitingly honest.

"It wasn't nice coming to work that first couple of years because we had some kids who weren't willing to do what it takes to win," Ford said. "Now, we have kids who do know what it takes to win on and off the field. We just need to know how to handle success better."

That was a nice problem a year ago. Following his first two years with performances of 5-5-1 and 4-7, Ford's Razorbacks went 8-5 and shocked the league last year by winning the Western Division with a 6-2 record.

But the Hogs have lost precious personnel. Besides the graduation of two gamebreakers—quarterback Barry Lunney and defensive end Steve Conley—running back Madre Hill tore knee ligaments in the SEC championship game and missed spring practice. He's a redshirt possibility. Also, first-year defensive coordinator Joe Lee Dunn, who revitalized the defense, jumped ship and took a similar position at Mississippi State.

OFFENSE: For all the people who criticized Lunney—and there were many—they will wish he had one more year. He made almost every big offensive play last year while backup Pete Burks barely played. Now, the burden falls on Burks and he may not be able to handle it all. If he can't, either Clint Stoerner or Chadd Jones (both true freshman) could get a shot at playing time.

Though Hill's return by fall is an iffy proposition—"The doctors say he's doing everything right in his rehab," Ford said.—Ford isn't counting on Hill. He does have back after a year's absence Oscar Malone, Arkansas' leading rusher two years ago before he underwent knee surgery.

Under Ford, the Hogs have recruited bigger and faster backs every year. Chrys Chukwuma, a

6-foot-1, 214-pound back from Montgomery (Ala.) Lanier who runs a 4.28 40, could be an impact recruit. There's also sophomore Cory Nichols, who saw action as a kick returner last year.

"We're pretty deep at tailback and if Madre comes back, we'll be even better," Ford said.

Most of the offensive line returns. The Hogs have two of the most physical receivers in the league with 6-3 sophomore Anthony Lucas and 6-2 junior Anthony Eubanks. They combined for 70 catches, 1,122 yards and 8 TDs last season.

DEFENSE: The aggressive philosophy used by Dunn last year continues under new coordinator Miles Aldridge, hired from Clemson. There were losses at defensive end and noseguard, but undisputed leader Mark Smith, who led the Hogs for a second-straight year in tackles (115), returns as linebacker.

The big worry is in the secondary, where no starters return. Junior Marcus Campbell and sophomore Zac Painter showed speed in the spring, and that may be enough to get them into the starting lineup.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Two years ago, Ford directly blamed several losses on the Hogs' woeful kicking game. Last season, it improved dramatically, but there were still some shaky moments. Punter Matt Wait (38.6-yard avg.) sizzled at the start of last season, but he struggled the rest of the year. The biggest jump has been at kicker. Though unsure of himself early, Todd Latourette came through with 14 of 21 field goals, which was the most since Todd Wright kicked 17 field goals in 1977.

RECRUITING: Ford said that "this is the best recruiting class we've had," and that's hard to deny. Arkansas signed three SEC-sized running backs with speed, including Chukwuma and Eric Branch of Dallas Carter High. They beat out Georgia, LSU and Auburn for Chukwuma and edged Texas for Branch. Ford expects defensive end Randy Garner and linebacker Carleton Bexley to make an impact.

Ron Higgins is a staff writer for the Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Pete Burks (So., 6-2, 190)	Chadd Jones (Fr., 6-2, 192)
RB: Madre Hill (Jr., 6-1, 193)*	Oscar Malone (Sr., 5-8, 193)
RB: Tyrone Henry (Jr., 5-11, 230)*	Jessie Cornelius (Sr., 5-10, 215)
WR: Anthony Eubanks (Jr., 6-2, 194)*	Emanuel Smith (Fr., 6-2, 201)
WR: Anthony Lucas (So., 6-3, 187)	Shannon Sidney (Jr., 6-1, 171)
TE: Mark Baker (Jr., 6-3, 241)*	Al Heringer (So., 6-4, 249)
LT: Carlos Showers (Sr., 6-5, 278)*	Bobby Williams (Fr., 6-4, 315)
LG: Russ Brown (So., 6-0, 273)*	Eddie Mosley (Sr., 6-4, 264)
C: Grant Garrett (So., 6-3, 262)	Landon Lambert (Fr., 6-4, 283)
RG: B. Burlsworth (So., 6-3, 275)	Michael Henry (So., 6-2, 310)
RT: W. Alderson (Sr., 6-4, 288)*	Scott Rivers (Sr., 6-5, 262)

DEFENSE

DE: Justin Brown (So., 6-4, 236)	Nathan Cole (So., 6-5, 218)
DT: Ken Anderson (Jr., 6-4, 274)	D.J. Cooper (Fr., 6-4, 251)
NT: Geno Bell (Sr., 6-2, 276)*	Melvin Bradley (So., 6-2, 258)
DT: Ryan Hale (So., 6-5, 278)	David Sanders (Jr., 6-4, 270)*
DE: C.J. McClain (So., 6-4, 225)	Norman Nero (So., 6-1, 221)
LB: Mark Smith (Sr., 6-3, 229)*	Sam Brooks (Jr., 5-11, 236)
LB: Anthony Hicks (Jr., 6-2, 225)	Vincent Bradford (Jr., 6-2, 217)*
CB: Marcus Campbell (Jr., 6-0, 176)	Dahiron Moss (Fr., 5-9, 170)
CB: Zac Painter (So., 5-9, 191)	C. Fitzgerald (Fr., 6-1, 177)
SS: DeAnthony Hall (So., 5-10, 187)	Kenny Wright (Fr., 6-2, 200)
FS: Philip Hayes (Sr., 5-11, 186)	Chris Akins (So., 6-0, 182)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Todd Latourette (So., 6-3, 205)*	Tony Dodson (Fr., 5-10, 160)
P: Matt Wait (Jr., 5-10, 221)*	Todd Latourette (So., 6-3, 205)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Danny Ford, 4th year, 17-17-1; 113-47-5 overall

'95 RECORD: 8-5 (6-2 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Razorback Stadium, Fayetteville, Ark. (53,565, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 13 (7 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Verl Mitchell, OL (2nd-team All-SEC); Steve Conley, DL (2nd-team All-SEC);

Junior Soli, DL (2nd-team All-SEC); Barry Lunney,

QB; Spencer Brown, DB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Pete Burks, Soph., 2-6-14 yards, 1 INT

RUSHING: Madre Hill, Jr., 307 carries, 1,387

yards, 15 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Anthony Eubanks, Jr., 43,

4 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Eubanks, 596

TACKLES: Mark Smith, Sr., 115

SACKS: Geno Bell, Sr., 4

INTERCEPTIONS: Smith and Vincent Bradford, Sr., 2

each

PUNTING: Matt Wait, Jr., 38.6 avg.

KICKING: Todd Latourette, Soph., 14-21 FGs (long

44), 32-33 PATs

SCORING: Hill, 96 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	..SMU
Sept. 21	..vs. Alabama*
Sept. 28	..vs. NE Louisiana*
Oct. 5	..FLORIDA
Oct. 12	..vs. Louisiana Tech*
Oct. 19	..at South Carolina
Nov. 2	..at Auburn
Nov. 9	..MISSISSIPPI (HC)
Nov. 16	..at Tennessee
Nov. 23	..at Mississippi State
Nov. 30	..vs. LSU*

*at War Memorial Stadium, Little Rock, Ark.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	..at SMU; L, 17-14
Sept. 9	..SOUTH CAROLINA; W, 51-21
Sept. 16	..at Alabama; W, 20-19
Sept. 23	..MEMPHIS; W, 27-20
Sept. 30	..at Vanderbilt; W, 35-7
Oct. 7	..TENNESSEE; L, 49-31
Oct. 14	..MISSISSIPPI; W, 13-6
Oct. 28	..AUBURN; W, 30-28
Nov. 4	..MISSISSIPPI STATE; W, 26-21
Nov. 11	..SW LOUISIANA; W, 24-13
Nov. 18	..at LSU; L, 28-0
Dec. 3	..vs. Florida in SEC Championship; L, 34-3
Dec. 30	..vs. N. Carolina in Carquest Bowl; L, 20-10

MILESTONES

- Linebacker Mark Smith seeks to lead the team in tackles for the third straight season.
- The Hogs are shooting for consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 1988-'89.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- The defense has to keep the turnover rate high.
- Pete Burks or whoever is quarterback must get the ball to big-play receivers Anthony Lucas and Anthony Eubanks.
- Arkansas has to realize it won't sneak up on anyone this season.



AUBURN

FACTS

COACH: Terry Bowden, 4th year, 28-5-1; 92-40-2 overall
'95 RECORD: 8-4 (5-3 conf.)
FINAL RANKINGS: No. 22 AP, No. 21 USA Today/CNN
HOME STADIUM: Jordan-Hare Stadium, Auburn, Ala. (85,214, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (5 off., 9 def.)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Willie Anderson, OL (2nd-team All America, left early for NFL Draft); Shannon Roubique, OL (1st-team All-SEC); Matt Hawkins, K (1st-team All-SEC); Stephen Davis, RB (2nd-team All-SEC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Dameyune Craig, Jr., 28-40-268 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT
RUSHING: Fred Beasley, Jr., 66 carries, 346 yards, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Willie Gosha, Sr., 58
RECEIVING (YARDS): Gosha, 668
TACKLES: Marcellus Mostella, Sr., 128
SACKS: Terry Solomon, Sr., 9
INTERCEPTIONS: Five tied with one each
PUNTING: Jeremy Zills, Soph., 43.0 avg.
KICKING: Kevin Gentile, Soph., 0-0 FGs, 2-3 PATs
SCORING: Beasley and Craig, 36 points each

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM
 Sept. 7 ...FRESNO STATE
 Sept. 14 ...at Mississippi
 Sept. 21 ...LSU
 Oct. 5 ...SOUTH CAROLINA
 Oct. 12 ...at Mississippi State
 Oct. 19 ...at Florida
 Nov. 2 ...ARKANSAS
 Nov. 9 ...NE LOUISIANA (HC)
 Nov. 16 ...GEORGIA
 Nov. 23 ...vs. Alabama*
 *at Legion Field, Birmingham, Ala.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...MISSISSIPPI; W, 46-13
 Sept. 9 ...UT-CHATTANOOGA; W, 76-10
 Sept. 16 ...at LSU; L, 12-6
 Sept. 30 ...at Kentucky; W, 42-21
 Oct. 7 ...MISSISSIPPI STATE; W, 48-20
 Oct. 14 ...FLORIDA; L, 49-38
 Oct. 21 ...W. MICHIGAN; W, 34-13
 Oct. 28 ...at Arkansas; L, 30-28
 Nov. 4 ...NE LOUISIANA; W, 38-14
 Nov. 11 ...at Georgia; W, 37-31
 Nov. 18 ...ALABAMA; W, 31-27
 Jan. 1 ...vs. Penn State in Outback Bowl; L, 43-14

MILESTONE

■ Linebacker Marcellus Mostella needs 144 more tackles to reach 400 in his career, which would put him fifth on the school's all-time list.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Utilize Dameyune Craig's abilities at quarterback without mortgaging balanced attack.
- Shore up a defense which ranked 10th among 12 SEC teams.
- Find a capable leg to replace All-SEC kicker Matt Hawkins.

By DOUG SEGREST

The bubble burst for Terry Bowden last year. After starting his Auburn tenure with 20 straight wins, Bowden's third edition struggled.

Eight wins may be fine for many programs, but when Bowden's Express stalled, he spent the off-season making moves intended to return the Tigers to their near-perfect success of his first two seasons.

The most notable move was the dismissal of defensive coordinator Wayne Hall, the key holdover from the Pat Dye era. Replacing Hall was Bill Oliver, the defensive coordinator at arch-rival Alabama the past six seasons. With other staff changes that followed, Bowden's main focus is getting back to the basics which created the untainted start. And there's no better time than now, with the SEC West up for grabs.

"Until we can block and tackle, run and catch as well as or better than anybody else in the conference, we don't need to worry about fancy schemes," said Bowden, sounding a lot like his father Bobby.

OFFENSE: The question of who would replace two-year starter Patrick Nix at quarterback was settled even before Nix left. Dameyune Craig, now a junior, entered in goal-line situations last season, producing 13 touchdowns in as many opportunities. Far more mobile than Bowden's previous Tigers quarterbacks, Craig is an accurate passer who is even more dangerous when forced to run.

The uncertainty is the direction the offensive attack will take. Bowden wavered between the more traditional I-formation and a four-wideout set last season. The results were often dizzying—Auburn averaged 38.6 points a game and ranked behind only Florida in SEC total offense—but the schizophrenic formations made little use of tail-back Stephen Davis. Look for Auburn to compromise more, with Davis' successor, Fred Beasley, becoming one of Craig's favorite targets and Auburn's top ballcarrier in a more conventional pro set. Such an offense would also allow the team to make better use of receivers Willie Gosha (58



MARCELLUS MOSTELLA-LB

recs., 668 yards) and Tyrone Goodson (37, 597).

The Tigers can be explosive once again if a patchwork line matures early. Only two starters, tackle Victor Riley and guard Leonard Thomas, return. Despite the new faces up front, Craig expects Auburn to battle for a major bowl bid.

DEFENSE: Oliver has one task—returning an Auburn defense to form that waned under the respected Hall. The Tigers were noticeably susceptible against the run and too gracious against the pass—intercepting just seven passes in '95.

Oliver has his work cut out for him, although nine starters return. Linebackers Marcellus Mostella, a second-team All-America selection by *College Sports* magazine, and Takeo Spikes are strong anchors. And a defensive line that spent most of the spring on the mend should be a strength, especially with a front three of Shannon Suttle, Jimmy Brumbaugh and Mark Smith. Oliver needs more big-play contributions from the likes of safety Martavious Houston while quickly acclimating the unit to his often-complex schemes.

SPECIAL TEAMS: The loss of All-SEC kicker Matt Hawkins provides a double sting. Not only was Hawkins near-perfect on field goals (13 of 15), he also averaged a steady 40 yards per punt. Again seeking a multi-purpose kicker, Bowden apparently found his man in junior college transfer Jaret Holmes, who arrives on campus with an impressive 45.1-yard punting average and a 14 of 23 success rate on field goals.

RECRUITING: Auburn won the recruiting battle at home, beginning with offensive lineman Colin Sears (6-foot-6, 277 pounds), who was rated the No. 2 offensive lineman in the nation by *Super-Prep*. The biggest sleeper might be wide receiver David Hill of Eufaula, Ala., who has been compared to former Alabama star David Palmer.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Dameyune Craig (Jr., 6-1, 185) **Jon Cooley** (Sr., 6-2, 221)
RB: Fred Beasley (Jr., 6-0, 215)* **Eric Hines-Tucker** (Sr., 5-8, 173)
RB: Kevin McLeod (Jr., 6-1, 228) **C. Pennington** (Fr., 5-8, 194)
WR: Willie Gosha (Sr., 6-1, 188)* **Hicks Poor** (Sr., 6-0, 173)
WR: Tyrone Goodson (Jr., 6-2, 175)* **Robert Baker** (So., 5-11, 191)
TE: Jessie McCovery (Sr., 6-3, 252) **Tyrone Dillard** (Jr., 6-2, 255)
LT: DeMarcus Curry (So., 6-5, 315) **Kevin Cummings** (Jr., 6-5, 280)
LG: Leonard Thomas (Sr., 6-2, 294)* **Kendall Mack** (So., 6-5, 302)
C: James Kiger (Jr., 6-3, 258) **Karl Lavine** (So., 6-3, 277)
RG: Jim Roe (Sr., 6-5, 296) **Ben Elliott** (Fr., 6-5, 276)
RT: Victor Riley (Jr., 6-5, 319)* **Jeno James** (Fr., 6-5, 289)

DEFENSE

DE: Shannon Suttle (Jr., 6-4, 282)* **Nate Smith** (Jr., 6-5, 278)
NT: J. Brumbaugh (So., 6-1, 266)* **Charles Dorsey** (So., 6-2, 289)
DE: Mark Smith (Sr., 6-4, 272)* **James Roscoe** (So., 6-4, 252)
LB: Terry Solomon (Sr., 6-2, 232)* **Bobby Daffin** (Jr., 6-4, 239)
LB: Ricky Neal (Jr., 6-0, 228) **Barrett Askew** (Fr., 6-0, 218)
LB: Takeo Spikes (So., 6-2, 224)* **Stan Bellamy** (Fr., 6-1, 216)
LB: M. Mostella (Sr., 6-3, 235)* **Terrance Crowder** (Jr., 6-2, 215)
CB: Tyreece Williams (Jr., 6-1, 181) **Dan Evans** (So., 5-10, 190)
CB: Larry Melton (Jr., 5-11, 192)* **Jayson Bray** (So., 5-10, 182)
SS: M. Houston (So., 6-1, 214)* **Liron Thomas** (Sr., 6-1, 199)
FS: Charles Rose (Sr., 6-0, 199)* **Ryan Taylor** (So., 6-1, 215)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Jaret Holmes (Jr., 6-2, 195) **Kevin Gentile** (So., 6-1, 191)
P: Jaret Holmes (Jr., 6-2, 195) **Jeremy Zills** (So., 6-3, 197)
 (* denotes returning starter)

Doug Segrest covers SEC football for the Birmingham (Ala.) News.

LOUISIANA STATE



KEVIN FAULK-RB

ROBERT SEALE/ALLSPORT USA

By JOHN CLAY

He may not have been the first choice of the fans when it came to picking LSU's new football coach, but in the end it was the way Gerry DiNardo finished that endeared him to the Tigers' fickle faithful. And that gives them hope for the future.

The former Vanderbilt coach, who was hired when Texas A&M's R.C. Slocum, TCU's Pat Sullivan and Kansas State's Bill Snyder said no thanks—for one reason or another—ended his first Cajun campaign with four wins in LSU's final five games, including a 45-26 thumping of Michigan State in the Independence Bowl.

The Tigers' 7-4-1 record marked the school's first winning season in six years, and with 15 returning starters back, LSU should be in the hunt for the Western Division crown this campaign.

While former coach Curley Hallman proved that he could recruit, he left open the question about his coaching ability. DiNardo appears to have convinced the Cajuns that he can do both, witness his club's wins over Auburn (12-6) and Arkansas (28-0).

"No question we've seen a definite carryover," said DiNardo of the strong close to 1995. "Everyone's really upbeat. There's a certain amount of enthusiasm about this program."

OFFENSE: Kevin Faulk returns for his sophomore campaign as the leader of the Tigers offense, which should depend more on the run (DiNardo's first love) this time around.

Faulk rushed for 852 yards last year, then closed the season with a bang, ripping through Michigan State for a bowl-record 234 yards.

As a true freshman, quarterback Herb Tyler started the final four games, including the rout of the Spartans. "He has a presence about him," DiNardo said. The offensive line returns four starters, including center Todd McClure and

guard Alan Faneca. And talented tight end David LaFleur, banged up most of last season, is also back. Wide receiver appears to be the weak link of the LSU offense. Sheddric Wilson led the team in receptions with 60, but he graduated, and Eddie Kennison decided to join the NFL early.

DEFENSE: DiNardo's biggest problem will be replacing his two stellar defensive ends—Gabe Northern and James Gillyard—who made the corners a no-man's land.

"It's a little similar to the wide receivers in that we lose two experienced players there," DiNardo said. "But we've got other people who can step in."

Linebacker Allen Stansberry (105 tackles, six sacks) and defensive tackle Chuck Wiley (79 tackles, seven sacks) head an aggressive front seven. Two of four starters return in the secondary, including free safety Clarence Lenton (3 INTs).

SPECIAL TEAMS: Two key players must be replaced here—the kicker and the kick returner. Andre LaFleur graduated after making 13 of 19 field goals last year, including 6-for-8 from 40-plus yards. Junior Wade Richey is the heir apparent.

Bigger shoes are left by Kennison, who averaged 21.8 yards on kickoff returns and 13.3 on punt returns. Punting is safe with Chad Kessler, who averaged a league-leading 44.1 yards per kick as a sophomore.

RECRUITING: Most of the so-called gurus put DiNardo's recruiting haul right up with Tennessee at the top of the conference and among the top 10 in the nation. The Tigers went for linemen, getting both 6-foot-4, 300-pound Alcender Jackson and 6-4, 220-pound Kareem Mitchell from Moss Point, Miss. Johnny Mitchell, a 6-5, 280-pounder from Marrero, La., also signed on, as did Trey Langley, a 6-5, 272-pounder from Eunice, La. The biggest surprise may have been the signing of Cecil Collins, a 5-10, 205-pound running back from Leesville, La.

John Clay covers SEC football for the Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Herb Tyler (So., 6-0, 194)*	Melvin Hill (Jr., 6-0, 217)
RB: Kevin Faulk (So., 5-10, 192)*	Kendall Cleveland (So., 6-1, 221)
RB: Nicky Savoie (Sr., 6-6, 239)*	Furnell Hankton (Jr., 6-5, 259)
WR: Larry Foster (Fr., 6-0, 186)	Brad Poole (Jr., 5-9, 168)
WR: Chris Beard (So., 5-11, 182)	Kevin Franklin (Sr., 5-8, 165)
TE: David LaFleur (Sr., 6-7, 278)*	Jamal Pack (Fr., 6-3, 242)
LT: Sean Wells (Sr., 6-4, 291)*	Trey Champagne (Sr., 6-7, 287)
LG: Ryan Thomassie (So., 6-1, 282)	Naeshall Menard (Fr., 6-1, 267)
C: Todd McClure (So., 6-2, 271)*	M. Carmouche (Sr., 6-3, 291)
RG: Alan Faneca (So., 6-5, 310)*	Adam Perry (Jr., 6-3, 293)
RT: Ben Bordelon (Sr., 6-6, 293)*	Ryan Herbert (Fr., 6-3, 271)

DEFENSE

DE: Arnold Miller (So., 6-4, 237)	R. Matthews (Fr., 6-4, 231)
DE: Chuck Wiley (Jr., 6-4, 274)*	Damien Tullier (Fr., 6-1, 283)
DT: A. McFarland (So., 6-1, 290)*	Trupania Bonner (So., 6-2, 267)
DE: Kenny Mixon (Jr., 6-4, 258)	Mike Sutton (Jr., 6-4, 263)
LB: Allen Stansberry (Sr., 6-1, 225)*	Charles Smith (Fr., 6-2, 220)
LB: MarKeith Spears (So., 5-11, 229)	Monte Gatlin (Fr., 6-1, 233)
LB: Pat Rogers (Sr., 5-11, 230)*	Joe Wesley (So., 6-2, 222)
CB: Denard Walker (Sr., 6-1, 187)*	David Butler (Sr., 5-10, 188)
CB: Troy Twillie (Jr., 6-1, 181)	Cedric Donaldson (Jr., 5-11, 175)
SS: Greg Hill (So., 5-11, 187)	Raion Hill (So., 6-1, 197)
FS: Clarence Lenton (Sr., 5-11, 188)*	Casey Howard (Sr., 6-3, 203)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Wade Richey (Jr., 6-3, 198)	Pat Neely (Fr., 5-8, 169)
P: Chad Kessler (Jr., 6-1, 197)*	Brandon Smith (So., 6-1, 180)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Gerry DiNardo, 2nd year, 7-4-1; 26-29-1 overall

'95 RECORD: 7-4-1 (4-3-1 conf.)

FINAL RANKING: No. 25 USA Today/CNN

HOME STADIUM: Tiger Stadium, Baton Rouge, La. (79,940, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 15 (8 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Gabe Northern, DE (1st-team All-SEC); Eddie Kennison, WR (left early for NFL Draft); Sheddric Wilson, WR (2nd-team All-SEC); Tory James, CB; James Gillyard, DE; Jamie Howard, QB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Herb Tyler, Soph., 45-69-589 yards, 5 TDs, 2 INTs

RUSHING: Kevin Faulk, Soph., 174 carries, 852 yards, 6 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): David LaFleur, Sr., 12 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): LaFleur, 120

TACKLES: Allen Stansberry, Sr., 105

SACKS: Chuck Wiley, Jr., 7

INTERCEPTIONS: Clarence Lenton, Sr., 3

PUNTING: Chad Kessler, Jr., 44.1 avg.

KICKING: None

SCORING: Kendall Cleveland, Soph., 66 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	at HOUSTON
Sept. 21	at Auburn
Sept. 28	NEW MEXICO STATE (HC)
Oct. 5	at VANDERBILT
Oct. 12	at Florida
Oct. 19	at KENTUCKY
Oct. 26	MISSISSIPPI STATE
Nov. 9	at ALABAMA
Nov. 16	at Mississippi
Nov. 23	at TULANE
Nov. 30	vs. Arkansas*

*at War Memorial Stadium, Little Rock, Ark.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	at Texas A&M; L, 33-17
Sept. 9	at Mississippi State; W, 34-16
Sept. 16	AUBURN; W, 12-6
Sept. 23	RICE; W, 52-7
Sept. 30	at South Carolina; T, 20-20
Oct. 7	at FLORIDA; L, 28-10
Oct. 14	at Kentucky; L, 24-16
Oct. 21	at NORTH TEXAS; W, 49-7
Nov. 4	at Alabama; L, 10-3
Nov. 11	MISSISSIPPI; W, 38-9
Nov. 18	at ARKANSAS; W, 28-0
Dec. 29	vs. Michigan State in Independence Bowl; W, 45-26

MILESTONE

■ If Kevin Faulk rushes for 1,000 yards, he'll be the first player to do so for LSU since Harvey Williams ran for 1,001 in 1987.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Continue the momentum generated at the end of last season, when LSU finished with four wins in the last five games, including a bowl blowout.
- Find effective replacements for departed defensive ends and wide receivers.
- Kevin Faulk needs to become a Heisman Trophy-type back on offense.



MISSISSIPPI

FACTS

COACH: Tommy Tuberville, 2nd year, 6-5
'95 RECORD: 6-5 (3-5 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, Oxford, Miss. (42,577, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 13 (7 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Renard Brown, DE; Josh Nelson, QB; Dou Innocent, RB; LeMay Thomas, WR

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Paul Head, Sr., 70-113-748 yards, 5 TDs, 2 INTs
RUSHING: Artie Moore, Sr., 40 carries, 217 yards, 1 TD
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Ta'Boris Fisher, Sr., 45, 4 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Fisher, 493
TACKLES: Walker Jones, Jr., 90
SACKS: Nate Wayne, Jr., 3.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Derek Jones, Sr., 3
PUNTING: Randall Green, Jr., 38.0 avg.
KICKING: Tim Montz, Sr., 13-19 FGs (long 47), 17-19 PATs
SCORING: Montz, 56 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 . . . IDAHO STATE
 Sept. 7 . . . vs. VMI*
 Sept. 14 . . . AUBURN
 Sept. 21 . . . at Vanderbilt
 Oct. 3 . . . vs. Tennessee**
 Oct. 19 . . . at Alabama
 Oct. 26 . . . ARKANSAS STATE
 Nov. 9 . . . at Arkansas
 Nov. 16 . . . LSU (HC)
 Nov. 23 . . . at Georgia
 Nov. 30 . . . MISSISSIPPI STATE
 *at Jackson, Miss.
 **at Liberty Bowl, Memphis, Tenn.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . . at Auburn; L, 46-13
 Sept. 9 . . . INDIANA STATE; W, 56-10
 Sept. 23 . . . GEORGIA; W, 18-10
 Sept. 30 . . . at Florida; L, 28-10
 Oct. 7 . . . TULANE; W, 20-17
 Oct. 14 . . . ARKANSAS; L, 13-6
 Oct. 21 . . . ALABAMA; L, 23-9
 Oct. 28 . . . VANDERBILT; W, 21-10
 Nov. 4 . . . at Memphis; W, 34-3
 Nov. 11 . . . at LSU; L, 38-9
 Nov. 25 . . . at Mississippi State; W, 13-10

MILESTONE

■ The Oct. 3 game against Tennessee in Memphis is special because the Rebels will play Vols' quarterback Peyton Manning, son of former Ole Miss and NFL star Archie Manning.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- The defensive line must not waste time maturing.
- Paul Head has to step forward as a playmaker.
- Neither Artie Moore nor Tony Cannon can replace Dou Innocent individually, but as a duo they must be dynamite.

By RON HIGGINS

If it wasn't for Florida's 12-1 record and 8-0 run through the SEC, first-year Mississippi coach Tommy Tuberville could very well have been the conference's coach of the year instead of Steve Spurrier.

What Tuberville did last year in a tough situation—a 6-5 record despite NCAA probation with scholarship reductions, as well as bowl and television sanctions—is nothing short of remarkable. Going 6-5 at Ole Miss even without such circumstances is hard enough.

"We didn't try to do anything particularly complex last year," Tuberville said. "We tried to keep it simple and worked on improving our execution. Beating Georgia early in the year was a turnaround game for us because it proved to our fans we could compete. It was evident we were a better team at the end of the season."

The Rebels can appear on TV this year but still can't go to a bowl. Scholarship limitations remain in place, and just 48 scholarship players will suit up. Seniors figure to start at 12 of 22 positions.

OFFENSE: Ole Miss senior tight end Kris Mangum is a lucky player. How many other tight ends in college football can say their offense is built around them? Mangum, whose brother John plays with the Chicago Bears, caught 36 passes last season; expect more of the same this season.

Senior quarterback Paul Head, a quiet sort whom teammates rally around, will conduct a short passing game, trying to get the ball to Mangum and fancy-stepping receiver Ta'Boris Fisher.

Ole Miss lost leading rusher Dou Innocent (868 yards in 1995) to graduation and running back Moine Nicholson to academic problems. So senior Artie Moore, an LSU transfer who has one year to blossom, and Georgia Tech sophomore transfer Tony Cannon must carry the Rebels' running game.

One plus is that Ole Miss has a veteran line featuring three seniors and two juniors. Senior guard



PAUL HEAD-QB

Shannon Provencher (6-foot-2, 270), senior center Skip Joyce (6-2, 290) and junior guard Omar Edwards (6-4, 280) lead the way.

DEFENSE: Tuberville firmly believes that "the defensive line is where you win ballgames," and he's shoring up his front four.

He moved senior Kyle Wicker from linebacker to defensive end, as well as junior Eli Anding from tight end to linebacker. There may be many more offensive players moving to defense.

"I made a mistake last year of not having Eli on the field enough," Tuberville said. "He'd play just 10 to 12 plays a game, and he's such a good athlete we should have played him 60 plays per game. He's more suited for defense, and we've got to have our 22 best players on the field."

The secondary has head-cracking strong safety Walker Jones, who made 90 tackles and had six pass deflections last year, and senior cornerback Derek Jones, one of the SEC's best at his position.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Don't ask Tuberville who's going to be the punter. Even though Randall Green was at the top of the spring depth chart, you get the feeling that Tuberville may pick a starting punter after watching pregame warm-ups in the season-opener. Kicker Tim Montz emerged last season as he hit 13 of 19 field-goal attempts, and backup Steve Lindsey provides no dropoff in talent level.

With Nicholson out of the picture, Fisher may return both kickoffs and punts. Fisher showed punt-return talent last season when he finished fifth in the conference.

RECRUITING: Talk about being selective. The Rebels signed just 13 players as allowed by NCAA probation for the second straight year, including top running back John Avery, a junior-college transfer. But Tuberville and his staff managed to get commitments from at least 25 walk-ons.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE			
QB: Paul Head (Sr., 6-0, 190)*	Stewart Patridge (Jr., 6-1, 190)		
RB: Ta'Boris Fisher (Sr., 5-8, 170)*	Lawrence Adams (Sr., 5-10, 180)		
RB: Artie Moore (Sr., 5-7, 185)	Tony Cannon (So., 5-10, 176)		
WR: Andre Hollis (Sr., 5-11, 185)	Jason Clingan (Fr., 6-1, 180)		
WR: Damon Billbrew (Sr., 5-11, 160)*	Hunter Caston (Fr., 5-10, 185)		
TE: Kris Mangum (Sr., 6-5, 240)*	Adam Bettis (Fr., 6-2, 216)		
LT: Orlando Trainer (Sr., 6-0, 265)	Eric Bubrig (Jr., 6-2, 275)		
LG: Omar Edwards (Jr., 6-4, 280)*	Jonathan Casey (Sr., 6-2, 350)		
C: Skip Joyce (Sr., 6-2, 290)*	Matt Luke (So., 6-2, 255)		
RG: S. Provencher (Sr., 6-2, 270)*	Todd Wade (Fr., 6-7, 275)		
RT: Boyd Kitchen (Jr., 6-5, 285)	Joey Embry (Fr., 6-5, 295)		
DEFENSE			
DE: Kyle Wicker (Sr., 6-2, 225)*	Quentin Wilson (Sr., 6-3, 265)		
DT: David Evans (Sr., 6-1, 275)	DeWayne McCurdy (Fr., 6-3, 235)		
DT: Devon Coburn (Jr., 6-3, 260)*	Richard King (Jr., 5-10, 240)		
DE: Morris Scott (So., 6-3, 215)	Ken Judon (Fr., 6-3, 250)		
LB: Eli Anding (Jr., 6-1, 205)	Johnny Jones (Jr., 6-2, 216)		
LB: Nate Wayne (Jr., 6-0, 220)	Britt Wicker (Fr., 6-0, 215)		
LB: Broc Kreitz (Jr., 6-0, 200)	Clay Short (Jr., 6-0, 205)		
CB: Derek Jones (Sr., 5-9, 170)*	Timothy Strickland (Fr., 5-10, 175)		
CB: Gary Thigpen (So., 5-9, 161)*	T. Nakia Magee (Jr., 5-10, 180)		
SS: Walker Jones (Jr., 6-3, 210)*	Thurman Thomas (Fr., 6-1, 187)		
FS: Ronnie Heard (Fr., 6-2, 190)*	Johnny Desler (Sr., 6-0, 175)		
SPECIAL TEAMS			
K: Tim Montz (Sr., 6-0, 185)*	Steve Lindsey (Jr., 6-0, 175)		
P: Randall Green (Jr., 6-2, 210)	Kevin Cooper (Jr., 6-0, 185)		
(* denotes returning starter)			

Ron Higgins is a staff writer for the Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal.

MISSISSIPPI STATE



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT USA

DERRICK TAITE-QB

By **RON HIGGINS**

After five years at Mississippi State—a couple of seasons longer than the rumor mill had predicted—coach Jackie Sherrill decided on a major overhaul of his staff.

This just wasn't one of your 15-minute oil changes when a coach moves an assistant to a different slot. This was overhauling the engine, sending his offensive (Bruce Arians) and defensive (Bill Clay) coordinators packing in favor of a couple of football nomads, Lynn Amedee and Joe Lee Dunn.

After three bowl bids in Sherrill's first four years, the Bulldogs fell to 3-8 last season, including 1-7 in the SEC's Western Division. That was three wins less than in-state rival Ole Miss.

State's program was also being investigated by the NCAA during the season. That and a lousy record by a talented team inspired the changes.

When all was said and done, State dodged a major NCAA bullet. It received a one-year probation with a loss of 13 new scholarships for 1997-'98. Bowl and television sanctions weren't applied. **OFFENSE:** Amedee will install more motion in the offense, which had big-play potential last season. But free-flowing quarterback Derrick Taite, a natural athlete who seems to play better when he is allowed to improvise, was reduced to a robotic state in Arians' offense. Even with his problems last season, Taite was rated fifth in the SEC.

The Bulldogs will not lack for quality running backs. Keffer McGee and Robert Isaac are low-to-the-ground scooters, and look for the 5-foot-8 Isaac to get some time as a receiver. With the departure of NFL draftee Eric Moulds at wideout, as well as the underrated Chris Jones, Taite will be looking for targets.

DEFENSE: State was last in the SEC a year ago in total defense, rushing defense and passing efficiency defense, and next to last in scoring defense.

So Sherrill hired Dunn, who stayed all of one

year at Arkansas, where he was a major reason why the Razorbacks won the Western Division.

Dunn's aggressive style is ideal for inside linebacker Dwayne Curry, who didn't have an eye-catching season last year yet made 113 tackles. Also, 333-pound tackle Eric Dotson showed signs in the off-season of vast improvement.

Maybe the biggest disappointment last year for Sherrill was his secondary. State had some early injuries and, even with All-SEC safety and Chicago Bears' first-round pick Walt Harris, the Bulldogs were unable to create turnovers. State ranked 11th in the 12-team league in takeaways.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Andy Russ emerged as one of the league's best punters, averaging 41.4 yards per boot, and the Bulldogs' coverage should be just as good as last year when it ranked just behind SEC-leading Vanderbilt in net punting.

Kicker Brian Hazelwood, subbing for injured starter Tim Rogers during parts of last season, often kicked off out of the end zone and was State's long-range field goal specialist.

Even though Moulds was one of the nation's best kickoff returners when the opposition was bold enough to kick to him, Sherrill is searching for an all-purpose returner as good as State's all-time leader, Tony James.

RECRUITING: Sherrill said he was pleased with his recruiting, despite the NCAA probation hanging over his head.

"People we recruited against were very vicious with our possible probation," Sherrill said. "The problem is that I get only one in-home visit with a parent, and it's hard to diffuse negative recruiting by phone."

Immediate contributions are expected from defensive backs Anthony Williams, Lamont Dumas and Eugene Clinton. Itawamba (Miss.) Community College receiver Lamont Woodberry should quickly become a top target for Taite.

Ron Higgins is a staff writer for the Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Derrick Taite (Sr., 6-4, 194)*	Rob Morgan (Fr., 6-2, 192)
RB: Keffer McGee (Jr., 5-10, 202)*	Robert Isaac (Jr., 5-8, 160)
RB: Nakia Greer (Jr., 5-10, 227)*	Dennis McKinley (So., 6-2, 231)
WR: Cameron Floyd (Jr., 6-2, 198)	Michael Brown (Jr., 5-10, 182)
WR: Jeremy Jones (So., 6-1, 198)	Lahitia Grant (So., 6-1, 198)
TE: John Jennings (So., 6-4, 226)*	Reginald Kelly (So., 6-5, 248)
LT: Brent Smith (Sr., 6-6, 275)*	Sam Baker (Jr., 6-5, 271)
LG: Brad Ainsworth (Sr., 6-2, 294)*	Burt Ashley (Jr., 6-3, 299)
C: Dan Hoover (Sr., 6-5, 278)	Eric Allen (So., 6-5, 282)
RG: Henry McCann (Sr., 6-6, 327)*	Stoney Price (So., 6-2, 283)
RT: Robert Hicks (Jr., 6-8, 340)	Paul Mooney (Fr., 6-8, 317)

DEFENSE

DE: Gregory Favors (Jr., 6-3, 228)*	Kenneth Knotts (So., 6-3, 248)
DT: Michael Lindsey (Sr., 6-1, 282)	James Grier (Jr., 6-6, 299)*
NT: Eric Dotson (Jr., 6-3, 333)	K. Smith (So., 6-1, 259)
DT: Terry Day (Sr., 6-5, 281)*	Raymond Gee (Sr., 6-5, 286)
DE: Derek Rush (Jr., 6-3, 215)	Cornell Menafee (Fr., 6-3, 237)
LB: Dwayne Curry (Sr., 6-3, 248)*	Henry Ellis (Sr., 6-0, 236)
LB: Paul Lacoste (Sr., 6-2, 239)*	Larry Campbell (So., 6-2, 236)
CB: Izell McGill (Jr., 5-10, 161)*	Chester Lewis (So., 5-9, 166)
CB: Chauncey McGee (So., 6-0, 180)	Omar Henderson (So., 6-0, 185)
SS: Eric Daniel (So., 6-2, 176)	Jimmy Lipscomb (Sr., 5-10, 185)*
FS: Anthony Derrickis (So., 6-0, 187)	Kendall Roberson (So., 6-2, 185)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: B. Hazelwood (So., 6-0, 195)	Andy Russ (Sr., 6-0, 181)
P: Andy Russ (Sr., 6-0, 181)*	Jeff Walker (So., 6-0, 219)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Jackie Sherrill, 6th year, 28-28-2; 133-73-4 overall

'95 RECORD: 3-8 (1-7 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Scott Field, Starkville, Miss. (40,656, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 15 (7 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Walt Harris, DB (1st-team All-SEC); Eric Moulds, WR (2nd-team All-SEC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Derrick Taite, Sr., 165-309-2,241 yards, 16 TDs, 11 INTs

RUSHING: Keffer McGee, Jr., 235 carries, 1,072 yards, 13 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): McGee, 27, 2 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): McGee, 295

TACKLES: Dwayne Curry, Sr., 113

SACKS: Michael Lindsey and Raymond Gee, Srs., 3 each

INTERCEPTIONS: Paul Lacoste, Sr., and Izell McGill, Jr., 1 each

PUNTING: Andy Russ, Sr., 41.4 avg.

KICKING: Brian Hazelwood, Soph., 4-5 FGs (long 45), 10-10 PATs

SCORING: McGee, 92 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	..at Memphis
Sept. 21	..LOUISIANA TECH
Sept. 28	..at South Carolina
Oct. 5	..GEORGIA
Oct. 12	..AUBURN
Oct. 26	..at LSU
Nov. 2	..NE LOUISIANA (HC)
Nov. 9	..at Kentucky
Nov. 16	..ALABAMA
Nov. 23	..ARKANASAS
Nov. 30	..at Mississippi

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	..MEMPHIS; W, 28-18
Sept. 9	..LSU; L, 34-16
Sept. 16	..at Baylor; W, 30-21
Sept. 23	..at Tennessee; L, 52-14
Sept. 30	..NE LOUISIANA; L, 34-32
Oct. 7	..at Auburn; L, 48-20
Oct. 14	..SOUTH CAROLINA; L, 65-39
Oct. 28	..KENTUCKY; W, 42-32
Nov. 4	..ARKANASAS; L, 26-21
Nov. 11	..at Alabama; L, 14-9
Nov. 25	..MISSISSIPPI; L, 13-10

MILESTONE

■ Mississippi State can go to its fourth bowl in six years for the first time in school history.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Derrick Taite has to play footloose and fancy-free.
- The defensive line must tackle much better than last year.
- Mississippi State has to create more turnovers.

7 WAC

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

GEORGE JONES, RB, SAN DIEGO ST.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

MICHEAL COMER, LB, UTEP

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR:

MICHAEL GRAY, RB, FRESNO STATE

NO KEEPING UP WITH JONES

George Jones doesn't say much. So when the San Diego State running back broke his jaw late in the first half against New Mexico last season, few people knew.

"I said something to a few teammates, but I didn't tell the coaches," Jones said.

He didn't let the Lobos know it, either. Jones finished the game with 208 yards and three touchdowns. He then played the Aztecs' final three games with his jaw wired shut. An oversized facemask—created with the help of several trainers from the San Diego Chargers—was all that stood between his jaw and the brunt force of an opponents' blow.

"Every time somebody hit me I could feel the vibrations in my face," Jones said.

The pain didn't stop Jones from racking up 386 yards over those final three games and 1,842 for the season, breaking former

Aztec Marshall Faulk's WAC single-season rushing record (1,630 yards). And there's no telling what Jones would have done had he been completely healthy.

"There's no question I would have reached it [2,000 yards] if I hadn't broken my jaw," Jones said.

Unable to chew, Jones' diet consisted of sucking protein and weight-gain drinks through a straw for seven weeks. He lost seven pounds during the first week and almost 20 by the time he was able to eat again. For a 5-foot-9, 210-pound back who benches 475 pounds and leg-presses 1,100—"a freak of nature," strength coach Dave Ohton calls Jones—times were indeed very lean.

"I didn't have anything when Saturday came around," Jones said. "I just played on sheer will."

It's not the only time in Jones' life his will was tested. Growing up in the housing projects of Greenville, S.C., it was Jones' determination to play football that kept him alive and away from the drug dealers who lined just about every street corner.

"Football was the ticket out," Jones said. "Without football, I wouldn't be here today."

By the time he was 13, Jones was already working as a cook at a local fish market. He would jog several miles to the market after football practice, then jog home late at night . . . always running away from the danger that lurked around him.

"There was a lot of temptation to deal drugs and do all the bad stuff, but that isn't what I wanted to do. I wanted to play professional football," Jones said. "I just went on with what life offered me at the time. I really didn't complain. I just played football, went to school and did whatever I could do to get through the day."

Now "Jaws," as his teammates refer to him, is closer than ever to realizing his dream of playing in the NFL.

"This is dreamland here," Jones said. "I'm enjoying it. I'm living good. I'm playing the sport I love to play. I'm in school and getting an education. It's all I could ever ask for."

—Dave Allen



Despite playing with a broken jaw for three-and-a-half games, the Aztecs' George Jones rushed for 1,842 yards last season.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH	MOUNTAIN DIVISION	PACIFIC DIVISION
	1. BYU	1. SAN DIEGO STATE
	2. UTAH	2. AIR FORCE
	3. TCU	3. FRESNO STATE
	4. TULSA	4. COLORADO STATE
	5. NEW MEXICO	5. WYOMING
	6. RICE	6. HAWAII
	7. SMU	7. SAN JOSE STATE
	8. UTEP	8. UNLV

ALL-WAC TEAM

OFFENSE				
POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
QB	STEVE SARKISIAN	SR.	6-2/210	BYU
RB	GEORGE JONES	SR.	5-9/210	SAN DIEGO ST.
RB	C. FUAMATU-MA'AFALA	SOPH.	6-1/272	UTAH
WR	MARCUS HARRIS	SR.	6-2/209	WYOMING
WR	WILL BLACKWELL	JR.	6-0/180	SAN DIEGO ST.
TE	CHAD LEWIS	SR.	6-6/235	BYU
OL	RYAN TUCKER	SR.	6-6/290	TCU
OL	LARRY MOORE	SR.	6-3/290	BYU
OL	STEVE SCIFRES	SR.	6-5/291	WYOMING
OL	KYLE TURLEY	JR.	6-6/305	SAN DIEGO ST.
OL	BRANDON TURNER	SR.	6-3/283	NEW MEXICO

DEFENSE				
POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
DL	NDUKE KALU	SR.	6-4/245	RICE
DL	CAMERON CURRY	SR.	6-5/260	AIR FORCE
DL	PAT LARSON	SR.	6-5/280	WYOMING
DL	CHAD KAUHAHAA	SR.	6-2/253	UTAH
LB	MICHEAL COMER	SR.	5-9/260	UTEP
LB	SHAY MUIRBROOK	SR.	6-1/235	BYU
LB	CRAIG SWANN	SR.	5-11/230	SMU
DB	HAROLD LUSK	SR.	6-0/193	UTAH
DB	RICKY PARKER	SR.	6-1/205	SAN DIEGO ST.
DB	TIM MCTYER	SR.	5-11/170	BYU
DB	OMAR STOUTMIRE	SR.	5-11/195	FRESNO STATE

SPECIAL TEAMS				
POS.	PLAYER	YEAR	Ht./Wt.	COLLEGE
PK	MICHAEL REEDER	JR.	6-0/162	TCU
P	TUCKER PHILLIPS	SR.	6-2/210	RICE
RS	JAMES DYE	SR.	5-9/150	BYU

3 BIGGEST GAMES

1. TEXAS A&M AT BYU, AUG. 24: GAME ONE OF WHAT COULD BE A GRUELING 15-GAME SCHEDULE FOR THE COUGARS (SHOULD THEY REACH THE WAC TITLE GAME AND A BOWL GAME). BYU PLAYS TWO GAMES BEFORE THE MONTH OF AUGUST ENDS.

2. AIR FORCE AT SAN DIEGO STATE: OCT. 5: SHOULD BE A WILD ONE. THE FALCONS' GROUND ATTACK (332.4 YPG. LAST SEASON), LED BY QB BEAU MORGAN, MEETS THE AZTECS' BLITZKRIEG (482 YPG. TOTAL OFFENSE).

3. BYU AT UTAH, NOV. 23: THIS SHOULD DECIDE THE WAC MOUNTAIN DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP . . . THAT IS, IF THE COUGARS ARE STILL STANDING.

AIR FORCE



BEAU MORGAN-QB

NAME POWELL/ALLSPORT USA

By ADRIAN WOJNAROWSKI

He is one of the slightest stars college football will see this season. Beau Morgan is 5-foot-11, 187 pounds, and even these vitals could be a stretch for the Air Force quarterback. Yet Morgan, a Heisman Trophy candidate, is the best reason to believe the Falcons have a chance to earn a share of their third consecutive conference championship.

Two straight seasons they've made it to a bowl game. Two straight seasons they were double-digit losers. The angst of losing to Texas Tech, 55-41, in the Copper Bowl a year ago hasn't departed coach Fisher DeBerry. "Lots of people have told me how entertaining they thought the Copper Bowl was," DeBerry said. "But we didn't like the outcome at all."

This could be the best Falcon team in over a decade, but they have to play at Notre Dame, San Diego State and Army this season and have to replace most of the offense. Yet, there is so much hope surrounding the return of Morgan, who could be the West's most dangerous quarterback. **OFFENSE:** No one runs the option better than Morgan. He was only the eighth player in NCAA history to rush and pass for 1,000 yards in a season, finishing with 1,285 yards running and 1,165 passing. He is the third Air Force quarterback—along with Dee Dowis (1989) and Bart Weiss (1985)—to do it.

He will have to be a terrific leader for the Falcons. Most of the players surrounding him will be new to the Falcon lineup. Marc Ranger, a former wide receiver, moves to left halfback. Fullback Nakia Addison and halfback Todd Eilers are expected to assume the burden left behind by the graduated Jake Campbell.

Either Addison or Eilers must step up, because the success of Air Force's triple option offense greatly depends on the success of the fullback.

Since going to the double wing in 1994, Air Force is 9-2 when the fullbacks rush for more than 90 yards; 7-6 when they are held under 90 yards. The running backs will run behind an inexperienced forward wall, which returns only one proven commodity—6-3, 260-pound senior Carlton Hendrix, a legitimate All-WAC candidate.

DEFENSE: Once again, the Falcons' run defense will be tough. The defensive line has experience and size, and yet it is the linebackers that could make the difference for the Air Force defense.

Lee Guthrie (100 tackles) and Steve Fernandez (84) were two of the top three tacklers for the Falcons a season ago. Alex Pupich, a former defensive end and tight end, has moved again. Now, he'll get to start at left outside linebacker. Air Force has to be strong against the run again because there is still a prodigious chance the secondary could again hurt them.

The Falcons lost their two best coverage players—Kelvin King and LeRon Hudgins—and a talented pass rusher, Brian McCray. Even without McCray, the defensive front should be strong, thanks to the return of senior tackles Cameron Curry (team-high 6 sacks) and Jamie Maunz, along with senior nose guard Chris Schweighardt. **SPECIAL TEAMS:** Air Force has to find a punter to replace Steve Carr, who ranked ninth nationally. DeBerry believed it would be Keith Hall, but he missed spring practice to concentrate on academics. Melvin Whatley, an outside linebacker, will get a chance with Jason Kirkland (43.2 yards per punt) as the Falcons move into the fall.

Kicker Randy Roberts is gone and will be replaced by Dallas Thompson. Ranger, who returned two kickoffs for over 30 yards each, will be counted on to return kicks.

RECRUITING: Due to the Air Force Academy's appointment process, names of incoming athletes are not released until late in the summer.

Adrian Wojnarowski is a columnist for the Fresno Bee.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Beau Morgan (Sr., 5-11, 187)*	Tom Brown (Sr., 5-9, 164)
RB: Marc Ranger (Sr., 5-11, 175)*	Tobin Ruff (Jr., 6-0, 198)
RB: Todd Eilers (Sr., 5-10, 175)	Jamal Singleton (So., 5-9, 185)
RB: Nakia Addison (Sr., 5-8, 182)*	Craig Tanner (Sr., 5-10, 228)
WR: Marcus Alexander (Sr., 6-3, 172)	Dustin Tyner (Sr., 5-11, 174)
TE: Rory Rosenbach (Jr., 6-4, 240)	Ryan Quaal (Jr., 6-2, 213)
LT: Charles Parks (Jr., 6-6, 269)	Shawn Tellers (Jr., 6-1, 265)
LG: Carlton Hendrix (Sr., 6-3, 260)*	Mark Kasayka (So., 6-1, 260)
C: Mike Zeman (Sr., 6-1, 255)	Nathan Faber (Jr., 6-2, 267)
RG: Brad Hutt (Jr., 6-3, 262)	Karl Falk (Jr., 6-0, 235)
RT: Donald Leary (Sr., 6-3, 256)	Frank Mindrup (So., 6-5, 272)

DEFENSE

DT: Cameron Curry (Sr., 6-5, 260)*	Scott Chandler (Jr., 6-3, 248)
NT: C. Schweighardt (Sr., 5-11, 225)*	Jason Verbeck (Jr., 6-2, 236)
DE: Jamie Maunz (Sr., 6-4, 265)*	Tim Schumacher (Jr., 6-3, 243)
LB: Alex Pupich (Sr., 6-5, 242)	Joe Suhajda (Jr., 6-3, 250)
LB: Lee Guthrie (Sr., 6-1, 223)*	Keith Ensor (Sr., 6-1, 225)
LB: Sean Finnan (Jr., 6-3, 222)	Jeff Mohr (Jr., 6-1, 216)
LB: Steve Fernandez (Jr., 6-1, 230)*	Michael Tyler (So., 6-1, 201)
CB: F. Staine-Pyne (Jr., 6-0, 188)	John Stepien (So., 5-10, 165)
CB: Mike Walker (Sr., 5-7, 187)	Jamie Rhone (Jr., 5-10, 184)
SS: Stephen Pipes (Jr., 6-0, 189)	Abe Ebia (Jr., 6-0, 190)
FS: Brian Mulloy (Sr., 6-1, 191)	Brandt House (Sr., 5-9, 188)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Dallas Thompson (Jr., 5-11, 175)	Eli Swanson (Jr., 5-9, 177)
P: Melvin Whatley (Jr., 6-0, 203)	Jason Kirkland (So., 6-0, 169)

(* denotes returning starter)



FACTS

COACH: Fisher DeBerry, 13th year, 92-55-1

'95 RECORD: 8-5 (6-2 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Falcon Stadium, Colorado Springs, Colo. (52,480, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 9 (4 off., 5 def.)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Bret Gillessen, OL (1st-team All-WAC); Brian McCray, LB (1st-team All-WAC); LeRon Hudgins, DB (2nd-team All-WAC); Kelvin King, DB (2nd-team All-WAC); Steve Carr, P

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Beau Morgan, Sr., 90-169-1,165 yards, 12 TDs, 7 INTs

RUSHING: Morgan, 229 carries, 1,285 yards, 19 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Marc Ranger, Sr., 15, 1 TD

RECEIVING (YARDS): Ranger, 201

TACKLES: Lee Guthrie, Sr., 100

SACKS: Cameron Curry, Sr., 6

INTERCEPTIONS: Mickey Dalton, Sr., 1

PUNTING: None

KICKING: Dallas Thompson, Jr., 1-1 FGs (long 26), 10-10 PATs

SCORING: Morgan, 114 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	.SAN JOSE STATE
Sept. 7	.at UNLV
Sept. 21	.at Wyoming
Sept. 28	.RICE (HC)
Oct. 5	.at San Diego State
Oct. 12	.NAVY
Oct. 19	.at Notre Dame
Oct. 26	.HAWAII
Nov. 2	.COLORADO STATE
Nov. 9	.at Army
Nov. 16	.at Fresno State

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	.BYU; W, 38-12
Sept. 9	.WYOMING; W, 34-10
Sept. 16	.COLORADO STATE; L, 27-20
Sept. 23	.at Northwestern; L, 30-6
Sept. 30	.at New Mexico; W, 27-24
Oct. 7	.UTEP; W, 56-43
Oct. 14	.at Navy; W, 30-20
Oct. 21	.at Utah; L, 22-21
Oct. 28	.at Fresno State; W, 31-20
Nov. 11	.ARMY; W, 38-20
Nov. 18	.NOTRE DAME; L, 44-14
Nov. 25	.at Hawaii; W, 43-28
Dec. 27	.vs. Texas Tech in Copper Bowl; L, 55-41

MILESTONE

■ Air Force could win or share the Commander's Trophy for the eighth straight season, but must win at Army. No small task this year.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Rebuilt offensive line must protect Beau Morgan.
- Secondary must develop quickly in the pass-happy WAC.
- With only five home games, Falcons must thrive on road.



COLORADO STATE

FACTS

COACH: Sonny Lubick, 4th year, 23-12; 44-31 overall
'95 RECORD: 8-4 (6-2 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Hughes Stadium, Fort Collins, Colo. (30,000, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (8 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Greg Myers, DB (1st-team All America); James Gregg, OL (1st-team All-WAC); Sean Moran, DL (1st-team All-WAC); Brady Smith, DL (1st-team All-WAC); Ray Jackson, DB (1st-team All-WAC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Moses Moreno, Jr., 99-175-1,439 yards, 11 TDs, 6 INTs
RUSHING: Damon Washington, Soph., 104 carries, 600 yards, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Paul Turner, Sr., 41, 9 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Turner, 678
TACKLES: Willie Taylor, Soph., 67
SACKS: Adrian Ross, Jr., 3
INTERCEPTIONS: Steve Standifer, Sr., 4
PUNTING: Matt McDougal, Sr., 38.6 avg.
KICKING: McDougal, 8-17 FGs (long 45), 33-36 PATs
SCORING: Turner, 60 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ... TENN.-CHATTANOOGA
 Sept. 7 ... COLORADO
 Sept. 14 ... at Oregon
 Sept. 21 ... UNLV
 Sept. 28 ... at Nebraska
 Oct. 5 ... at Hawaii
 Oct. 12 ... at Tulsa
 Oct. 19 ... SAN JOSE STATE (HC)
 Oct. 26 ... SAN DIEGO STATE
 Nov. 2 ... at Air Force
 Nov. 9 ... at Fresno State
 Nov. 16 ... WYOMING

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ... MONTANA STATE; W, 31-10
 Sept. 9 ... at Colorado; L, 42-14
 Sept. 16 ... at Air Force; W, 27-20
 Sept. 30 ... BYU; L, 28-21
 Oct. 7 ... at Utah State; W, 59-17
 Oct. 14 ... at Utah; W, 19-14
 Oct. 21 ... NEW MEXICO; L, 22-14
 Oct. 28 ... at Wyoming; W, 31-24
 Nov. 4 ... UTEP; W, 56-10
 Nov. 11 ... HAWAII; W, 22-0
 Nov. 25 ... at San Diego State; W, 24-13
 Dec. 29 ... vs. Kansas State in Holiday Bowl; L, 54-21

MILESTONES

- With nine touchdown receptions in 1996, Paul Turner would break the school record of 23 career touchdown catches.
- A third consecutive bowl appearance by the Rams would be a school first.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a reliable quarterback.
- Make a smooth transition from a power running attack to a speed-based offense.
- Score enough points to stay competitive while young defense matures.

By PHIL MILLER

Sonny Lubick has proved conclusively that he can win with defense. Now the Western Athletic Conference will learn if he can win with offense. The early line? Don't bet against him.

Lubick's first three seasons in Fort Collins were spent piloting the greatest teams in Colorado State history, including the Rams' first two WAC championships in 1994 and 1995.

There's no secret how he did it—Colorado State led the conference in total defense twice and finished second the other season. Last year, the Rams fielded Greg Myers, the Jim Thorpe Award winner as the nation's best defensive back, and All-WAC cornerback Ray Jackson, behind the conference's most feared pair of pass rushers, ends Brady Smith (15 sacks) and Sean Moran (6).

They earned the Rams a second consecutive trip to the Holiday Bowl—unprecedented in school history—despite a feckless offense that ranked ahead of only last-place UTEP.

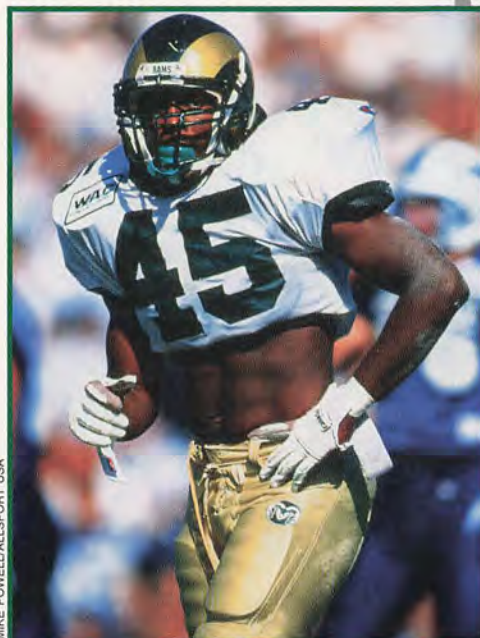
That defense is gone; seven regulars graduated and only two seniors are likely to play much in 1996. "We're awfully young," conceded Lubick, "but pretty talented, too."

So, in classic WAC style, the Rams will try to win some shootouts this season. It could happen because they have a deep pool of receivers, a pair of terrific tight ends and an emerging star in the backfield.

OFFENSE: The passing attack finished as the WAC's second-worst, completing 51 percent of its passes, and third-down conversion opportunities usually resulted in punts.

Yet Colorado State has good reason to be optimistic about 1996. For one thing, there's big-play specialist Paul Turner, who was second in the league in touchdown receptions (nine) while catching 41 passes. Jeremy Calhoun and Iowa State transfer Geoff Turner also provide speedy targets.

Tight ends Justin Shull and Eli Workman are steady blockers but can make big catches, particularly Shull. "I don't believe there's a better pair



MIKE POWELL/ALLSPORT USA

WILLIE TAYLOR-LB

of tight ends in our league, as far as complementing each other," Lubick said.

The line lost three starters, but Lubick believes last season's reserves are ready to step forward. Same for running back Damon Washington, who gained 101 yards on 10 carries in the Holiday Bowl loss to Kansas State.

Junior Moses Moreno and senior Daren Wilkinson tried Lubick's patience last season with their inconsistent play at quarterback. "They both got some experience, that's a positive," Lubick said. "We'd like somebody to step forward, though."

DEFENSE: There's little chance the defensive line will harass quarterbacks as effectively as Smith and Moran did in 1995. But that doesn't mean the Rams lack a pass rush, thanks to sophomore outside linebackers Willie Taylor (67 tackles) and Nate Kvamme (61 tackles), who broke into the starting lineup by midseason.

Up front, junior tackle DeVaughn Hawkins is a proven run stopper, and Kirk Bowman hopes to reclaim his tackle spot after a knee injury cost him nine games last season. Safety Steve Standifer is the only returnee in the secondary.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Here's another hole Myers leaves: He was the Rams' punt returner for four seasons, two of them resulting in all-conference selections. Washington, who handled kickoff returns, may fill that spot. Senior Matt McDougal will do the punting and kicking again, though he was the only WAC kicker to connect on less than 50 percent of his field goals.

RECRUITING: Lubick plans to waste no time in resurrecting his defense, and compiled a deep recruiting class of defenders to help him do it. Chief among them was southern Californian Ula Tiutele, a 6-3, 210-pound linebacker whom Lubick expects to contribute right away.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE	
QB: Moses Moreno (Jr., 6-2, 190)*	Daren Wilkinson (Sr., 6-2, 218)*
RB: Darrell Ballard (Jr., 6-1, 198)*	Joey Porter (So., 6-2, 211)
RB: D. Washington (So., 5-11, 190)	Jamie Blake (Fr., 5-10, 207)
WR: Paul Turner (Sr., 5-9, 188)*	Geoff Turner (Jr., 5-8, 184)
WR: Jeremy Calhoun (Sr., 6-1, 175)	Ronald Antone (Sr., 5-9, 164)
TE: Justin Shull (Sr., 6-3, 262)*	Eli Workman (Jr., 6-4, 250)*
LT: Mark Rogowski (Sr., 6-5, 286)*	Adam Wallace (Jr., 6-6, 265)
LG: Steve Dundee (Jr., 6-4, 285)*	Josh Dansereau (Jr., 6-1, 270)
C: Mike Newell (So., 6-4, 277)	Justin Werth (Sr., 6-2, 260)
RG: Anthony Cesario (So., 6-6, 290)	Julio Alcala (Fr., 6-3, 268)
RT: Eric Bailey (So., 6-6, 279)	Donnie Forbes (Fr., 6-3, 279)
DEFENSE	
DE: Adrian Ross (Jr., 6-2, 224)	George Schramm (Jr., 6-3, 243)
DT: Kirk Bowman (Sr., 6-4, 273)*	David Trbovich (Fr., 6-4, 236)
DT: D. Hawkins (Jr., 6-1, 284)*	Greg Pollard (So., 6-0, 250)
DE: Steve Trammell (So., 6-5, 242)*	Jason Radakovich (Jr., 6-6, 232)
LB: Nate Kvamme (So., 6-1, 210)*	Jim Detterick (Sr., 6-2, 210)
LB: Eric Vaughn (Fr., 6-2, 232)	Brian Sandland (Jr., 6-3, 228)
LB: Willie Taylor (So., 6-0, 212)*	Derrick Harden (So., 6-1, 220)
CB: Brady Schneider (Jr., 5-8, 176)	Eason Ramson (Jr., 5-10, 185)
CB: Darrell Franklin (Fr., 5-10, 170)	Jeramie Thomas (Fr., 6-2, 188)
SS: Steve Standifer (Sr., 6-0, 190)*	Jon Benalla (So., 5-10, 204)
FS: Myron Terry (So., 6-2, 196)	Erik Olson (Fr., 6-1, 189)
SPECIAL TEAMS	
K: Matt McDougal (Sr., 5-10, 170)*	Preston Loos (Jr., 6-1, 180)
P: Matt McDougal (Sr., 5-10, 170)*	Preston Loos (Jr., 6-1, 180)
(* denotes returning starter)	

Phil Miller covers WAC football for the Salt Lake City Tribune.

RICE



CHAD NELSON-QB

ROBERT SEALE/ALLSPORT USA

By JIMMY BURCH

Little things, in the estimation of Rice coach Ken Hatfield, made the difference in turning a team that won a share of the 1994 Southwest Conference championship into a 2-8-1 also-ran a year ago. The Owls lost five games by a touchdown or less and along the way saw five multi-year senior starters miss more than half of the season with injuries. As a result, the Owls' ball-control attack averaged nearly two fewer minutes of possession time each game than it did the previous season.

Correcting these minor malfunctions, Hatfield believes, should be enough to propel the Owls back into the thick of the league race as his team makes its WAC debut.

The Owls are older and wiser. A total of 14 starters return from last season. And that does not include quarterback Chad Nelson, an option specialist who moved "head and shoulders" ahead of the competition during spring drills.

"We're in good shape right now to contend for a championship," Hatfield said. "The big thing for us will be plugging some gaps on defense. With the wide-open offenses, the WAC puts maximum pressure on a defense."

OFFENSE: For the first time since Hatfield's arrival in December 1993, everyone should be on the same page. With departed quarterback Josh LaRocca, a dropback passer recruited by the previous regime, that was not always the case.

"For the past two years, we've had one style of offense for Josh and one for Chad. There's no doubt that if the whole offense had been built around Chad, we could have had a lot fewer plays and better execution," said Hatfield, who has another option specialist, Raphael Tillman, available in reserve.

Four starting offensive linemen return, which will result in crisper execution of a ground-gobbling attack (222.5 yards per game) as the Owls welcome

back a quartet of rushers who gained at least 250 yards last season. Additionally, fullback Benji Wood, a former Clemson starter, joins a crowded backfield in which a feature back has yet to emerge from among Jamey Whitlock, Spencer George, Michael Perry and Mike Gingrich.

When the Owls do throw, which is the weakest part of Nelson's game (6 of 26 last season), split end Jeff Venghaus (22 catches, 371 yards) presents a talented target.

DEFENSE: The defensive front returns three starters, including Ndukwe Kalu, the school's career sack leader. But the linebacking corps and secondary must be rebuilt. Derrick Williams, who established himself as a late-season presence at middle linebacker (55 tackles), is the only experienced returnee at his position. It will be up to Rashad Reynolds, Thomas Benford, Yinka Adeniji and Casey Collum to pick up the slack left by departed All-SWC talent Larry Izzo and Joe Davis.

Cornerback Warrick Franklin ranks among the nation's elite cover men, but the other three secondary spots are up for grabs.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Punter Tucker Phillips helped Rice finish third nationally in net punting (40.5 average) a year ago and adds versatility to special teams with his excellent on-side kicks and strong arm (2-of-2 passing, TD) on fake punts. Kicker Mike Ruff, who showed limited range last season, will be pushed by incoming freshman Scott Grimes.

RECRUITING: Hatfield failed to land any blue-chippers mentioned on state-wide recruiting checklists. But he did sign four players with plenty of speed, including a pair of coveted option quarterbacks in Chad Richardson (4.4 seconds in 40-yard dash) and Travis Ortega (4.38). Other possible contributors include defensive backs Adrian Sadler and Lon Dee Smith, as well as running back Anthony Griffin and wide receiver Jeremy Cooper.

Jimmy Burch covers the WAC for the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Chad Nelson (Jr., 5-11, 185)	Raphael Tillman (So., 5-10, 165)
RB: Michael Perry (So., 5-9, 180)*	Spencer George (Sr., 5-10, 205)
RB: Mike Gingrich (So., 5-11, 200)	Rodd Newhouse (Jr., 5-10, 195)
RB: Jamey Whitlock (Sr., 6-0, 210)*	Benji Wood (Jr., 6-2, 220)
WR: Jeff Venghaus (Jr., 6-0, 180)*	Thad Bridges (So., 6-0, 185)
TE: Mike Jones (Jr., 6-0, 225)	Kevin Conrad (Jr., 6-4, 240)
LT: Mark Spinner (Jr., 6-2, 270)*	Richard Williams (Jr., 6-5, 275)
LG: Mike Vietor (So., 6-0, 265)*	Alex Morris (Jr., 6-3, 265)
C: Jeremy Thigpen (Sr., 6-0, 265)*	Ben Westcott (Jr., 6-7, 270)
RG: Charles Torello (So., 6-1, 280)*	Chase Allen (Jr., 6-3, 270)
RT: Shan Jackson (So., 6-2, 245)	Robert Stovall (Jr., 6-4, 285)

DEFENSE

DE: Ndukwe Kalu (Sr., 6-4, 245)*	Julian Duncan (So., 6-2, 235)
DT: Jason Winsip (Jr., 6-2, 260)	Andrew Hughes (So., 6-4, 255)
NT: Larry Thompson (Jr., 5-9, 255)*	Yinka Adeniji (Fr., 6-1, 245)
DE: Andy Clifton (Jr., 6-2, 240)*	Mark Lodge (Fr., 6-4, 245)
LB: Rashad Reynolds (So., 6-0, 225)	Casey Collum (Fr., 5-11, 225)
LB: Derrick Williams (Jr., 6-1, 235)*	Thomas Benford (So., 5-11, 200)
LB: Kevin Masek (Sr., 6-3, 220)	Terrence Melton (So., 6-0, 210)
CB: Warrick Franklin (Sr., 5-10, 180)*	Bo Valles (Jr., 5-10, 175)
CB: L. Shaw (So., 5-9, 180)	David Grenardo (So., 5-7, 160)
SS: Aaron Stanley (Sr., 6-1, 205)	Larry Ruffin (Fr., 5-10, 170)
FS: Karlon Bedford (Fr., 5-10, 180)	Kevin Brabham (So., 6-1, 195)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Mike Ruff (Sr., 5-10, 180)*	Scott Grimes (Fr., 6-2, 190)
P: Tucker Phillips (Sr., 6-2, 210)*	Victor Young (Fr., 6-1, 190)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Ken Hatfield, 3rd year, 7-14-1; 120-76-4 overall

'95 RECORD: 2-8-1 (1-6 SWC)

HOME STADIUM: Rice Stadium, Houston, Texas (70,000, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (7 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Larry Izzo, LB (1st-team All-SWC); Brynton Goynes, DL (2nd-team All-SWC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Raphael Tillman, Soph., 17-32-189 yards, 3 INTs

RUSHING: Jamey Whitlock, Sr., 76 carries, 395 yards, 7 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Jeff Venghaus, Jr., 22, 1 TD

RECEIVING (YARDS): Venghaus, 371

TACKLES: Warrick Franklin, Sr., 58

SACKS: Ndukwe Kalu, Sr., 7

INTERCEPTIONS: Franklin, 3

PUNTING: Tucker Phillips, Sr., 43.6 avg.

KICKING: Mike Ruff, Sr., 9-14 FGs (long 52), 19-19

PATS

SCORING: Ruff, 46 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	.at Ohio State
Sept. 14	.at Tulane
Sept. 21	.KANSAS STATE
Sept. 28	.at Air Force
Oct. 5	..NEW MEXICO
Oct. 19	..SMU
Oct. 26	.at UTEP
Nov. 2	..HOUSTON (HC)
Nov. 9	..at BYU
Nov. 16	.at TCU
Nov. 23	..TULSA

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	..UNLV; W, 38-0
Sept. 16	..TULANE; L, 17-15
Sept. 23	.at LSU; L, 52-7
Sept. 30	.at Army; T, 21-21
Oct. 7	..at Texas; L, 37-13
Oct. 14	..TCU; L, 33-28
Oct. 21	.at Texas Tech; L, 31-26
Oct. 28	.at SMU; W, 34-24
Nov. 9	..TEXAS A&M; L, 17-10
Nov. 18	.at Baylor; L, 34-6
Dec. 2	..HOUSTON; L, 18-17

MILESTONES

- Should Rice make it to a bowl, it would be its first since 1961.
- By winning a WAC title, coach Ken Hatfield would become the only active Division I-A coach with championships in three different conferences (ACC, SWC, WAC).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Finding someone to help Ndukwe Kalu pressure the passer.
- Improving the passing accuracy of starting quarterback Chad Nelson.
- Reversing a minus-4 turnover ratio.



SMU

FACTS

COACH: Tom Rossley, 6th year, 10-42-3
'95 RECORD: 1-10 (0-7 SWC)
HOME STADIUM: Ownby Stadium, Dallas, Texas (23,783, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (8 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYER LOST: Cornell Parker, DB (2nd-team All-SWC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Mark Humble, Jr., 27-65-313 yards, 1 TD, 3 INTs
RUSHING: Donte Womack, Jr., 208 carries, 758 yards, 3 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Kevin Thornal, Sr., 44, 6 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Thornal, 531
TACKLES: Craig Swann, Sr., 167
SACKS: Swann, 4
INTERCEPTIONS: Chad Kollar, Soph., 2
PUNTING: Anthony Scotti, Jr., 39.9 avg.
KICKING: None
SCORING: Thornal, 36 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...TULSA
 Sept. 7 ...at Arkansas
 Sept. 14 ...UTAH
 Sept. 21 ...at Navy
 Sept. 28 ...at BYU
 Oct. 5 ...MISSOURI
 Oct. 19 ...at Rice
 Oct. 26 ...NEW MEXICO (HC)
 Nov. 2 ...at Wyoming
 Nov. 9 ...at UTEP
 Nov. 21 ...TCU

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...ARKANSAS; W, 17-14
 Sept. 9 ...NAVY; L, 33-2
 Sept. 16 ...at Oklahoma; L, 24-10
 Sept. 23 ...at Wisconsin; L, 42-0
 Sept. 30 ...TEXAS; L, 35-10
 Oct. 14 ...at Texas A&M; L, 20-17
 Oct. 21 ...at Houston; L, 38-15
 Oct. 28 ...RICE; L, 34-24
 Nov. 4 ...TCU; L, 19-16
 Nov. 11 ...BAYLOR; L, 48-7
 Nov. 18 ...TEXAS TECH; L, 45-14

MILESTONES

- Ramon Flanigan needs 2,534 yards to become SMU's all-time total offense leader, surpassing Chuck Hixson (6,884 yards).
- By defeating TCU in a Nov. 21 telecast in front of ESPN cameras, SMU can win on national television for the first time in 12 years.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- The Mustangs must dramatically improve a minus-12 turnover ratio.
- QB Ramon Flanigan needs to stay healthy.
- Have the defense slice at least a yard off its 5.3-yards per rush average from 1995.

By JIMMY BURCH

Take two veteran lines, a productive running back and one of the nation's top returning tacklers. Add two proven leaders—one on each side of the ball—who appear fully recovered from significant injuries in 1995. Mix in a handful of recruits from a class rated as your best this decade. Garnish with optimism generated from a move to a new league free of traditional bullies who have ruined past Saturdays. Bake in the competitive fires of the Western Athletic Conference.

What have you got?

To SMU inside linebacker Craig Swann, this sounds like the recipe for a stunning, rags-to-riches success story. Swann considers his team a contender for the WAC championship despite coming off a 1-10 season in which the Mustangs were outscored by an average margin of 20 points each week.

"I honestly believe we can win our division. We've got a chance to win the whole thing," Swann said. "We've got more talent and depth than people realize."

With experienced players along both lines and the comeback of quarterback Ramon Flanigan, the SWC leader in total offense in 1993 and 1994, coach Tom Rossley agrees this team "should match up much better" with its conference opponents than in any season since the Mustangs' football program was resurrected in 1989 after NCAA death penalty sanctions.

OFFENSE: Flanigan, a senior, heads into the fall fully recovered from a dislocated hip that ended his 1995 season after one play. In 1994, he produced 237.1 yards per game in total offense and accounted for 18 touchdowns despite playing 10 games on a strained left hamstring. This time around, he'll be protected by three senior starters on the offensive line—right tackle Brannon Kidd, left tackle Jason Holz and center Keith Chiles.

Running back Donte Womack (208 carries, 758 yards) blossomed into the running threat Flanigan has never had before to balance the Mustangs' run-



DONTE WOMACK-RB

and-shoot attack. With five returning receivers, including three that grabbed at least 19 passes a year ago, the SMU offense will put up some points as long as Flanigan remains healthy. Behind him, though, there is no proven backup.

DEFENSE: A run defense that permitted 5.3 yards per carry a year ago will be bolstered by the continued maturation of three returning starters up front and the return of inside linebacker Chris Bordano, the SWC's leading tackler in 1994 (13.9 per game), who missed last season with a back injury.

Generating more pressure from the outside will be a priority for a team that allowed four times as many sacks (32) as it registered (eight). Thus, Rossley tinkered with personnel during the spring to get more speed on the field, with ends Wendell Washington and Warwick Woodard also working at tackle and outside linebackers Warren Scott and Mercury Hall at end.

SPECIAL TEAMS: A starter since his freshman year, junior Anthony Scotti is entrenched as the Mustangs' punter. He averaged 39.9 yards per attempt in 1995 and, combined with a stingy coverage unit, finished with a respectable net of 36.6 yards per kick. The placekicking duties fall to Daniel Hernandez, an All-America performer on SMU's nationally ranked soccer team who played football in high school.

RECRUITING: SMU turned in a rare double for a school that has won just two games over the past two seasons. The Mustangs signed Texas' 1995 Class 5A Offensive Player of the Year (quarterback Chris Sanders) and the Class 4A Offensive Player of the Year (Wes Danaher). Sanders threw for 4,284 yards and 41 touchdowns as a high school senior. Danaher, during a four-year high school career, rushed for 8,837 yards and 113 touchdowns. Both are penciled in as possible contributors right away.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Ramon Flanigan (Sr., 6-1, 180)
RB: Donte Womack (Jr., 5-8, 185)
WR: Lamonte Guillory (So., 5-9, 170)
WR: Rafiq Cooper (So., 6-0, 185)
WR: Kevin Thornal (Sr., 6-3, 180)
WR: Albert Johnson (So., 5-9, 175)
LT: Jason Holz (Sr., 6-3, 285)
LG: Trey Bandy (Fr., 6-6, 290)
C: Keith Chiles (Sr., 6-0, 340)
RG: Austin Adams (Fr., 6-4, 290)
RT: Brannon Kidd (Sr., 6-4, 295)

DEFENSE

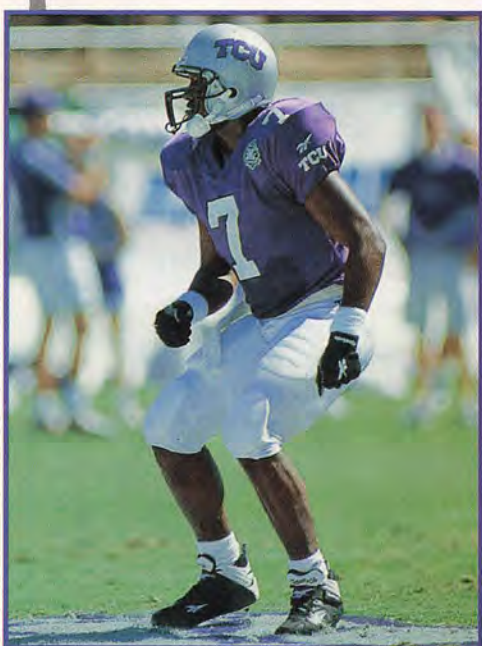
DE: W. Washington (So., 6-3, 245)
DE: Max McKinnie (Sr., 6-4, 240)
DE: Wilbert Mitchell (Sr., 6-3, 260)
DE: Mercury Hall (So., 6-2, 220)
LB: Jackson Moore (Jr., 6-4, 240)
LB: Craig Swann (Sr., 5-11, 230)
LB: Chris Bordano (Jr., 6-2, 230)
LB: Kenneth Imo (So., 5-11, 190)
CB: D. Mitchell (So., 5-10, 180)
CB: Dewey Evans (So., 5-10, 180)
FS: Jay Harvey (Sr., 5-11, 170)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: D. Hernandez (Jr., 5-11, 170)
P: Anthony Scotti (Jr., 6-3, 190)
Mark Humble (Jr., 6-1, 175)
Roy Coats (Fr., 5-11, 195)
Kevin Lias (So., 6-3, 175)
Jimmy Moore (So., 5-11, 190)
Brandon Williams (Sr., 5-11, 180)
David Visinsky (Jr., 6-2, 190)
Jeremy Morgan (So., 6-2, 260)
Nathan Lee (So., 6-2, 260)
Dray Wilson (Jr., 6-3, 250)
Glenn Ivey (Jr., 6-4, 275)
Bill Holder (Fr., 6-5, 305)

(* denotes returning starter)

Jimmy Burch covers the WAC for the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram.



GEOFF STEPHENS-LB

By JIMMY BURCH

As any armchair philosopher can tell you, time changes everything. For a football team, that is especially true of time spent in the weight room. Take the TCU squad coached by Pat Sullivan, for example.

There is no established quarterback or running back, which had been the case the past two seasons for the Horned Frogs. But for the first time in his five years in Fort Worth, Sullivan sees an offensive line and a defensive front seven that he deems truly two-deep in talent.

From tackle to tackle, TCU's offensive line averages 287 pounds per man—up more than 30 pounds per player from the line he inherited in 1992. His defense should be much improved from a squad that allowed opponents 5.2 yards per carry and 22.4 points per game in 1995.

Despite the lack of a proven pecking order at the Horned Frogs' two most significant offensive positions, Sullivan says this team should blow away the 6-5 result of last season. He talks openly of a berth in the first Western Athletic Conference championship game, Dec. 7 in Las Vegas.

"That's our goal, and I like our chances," said Sullivan, whose team returns five starters on each side of the ball and figures to get significant contributions from as many as six recruits.

OFFENSE: Three starters return on the offensive line, including center Ryan Tucker, an All-America candidate. Three others have ample playing experience. Adding massive redshirt freshmen Clifton Clemons and Paul Harmon to the mix, said Sullivan, gives the Horned Frogs "more athleticism up front than any college football team I've been around."

The big guys won't know who they'll be blocking for until August, when coaches get their first look at quarterback Fred Taylor, the 1995 national junior college MVP, and Reggie Hunt, an incoming freshman with 4.4 speed who rushed for more

than 2,000 yards and 40 TDs as a high school senior. Taylor, a 4.5 sprinter who threw for 2,381 yards and 22 touchdowns for Hinds (Miss.) Community College, will challenge junior Todd Stanford for the quarterback job. Hunt, however, may wind up at safety rather than join a tailback battle that includes Basil Mitchell and a pair of past blue-chippers, Andre Bruce and Sterling Boyd.

Either QB candidate will have an all-league target in wide receiver John Washington (52 catches, 699 yards), as well as a solid second option in Jason Tucker (31 catches, 433 yards).

DEFENSE: Geoff Stephens, a converted safety who registered 80 tackles in his first season at outside linebacker, is the lone returnee in the linebacker corps. But this year's group will be improved with Jay Davern's return from a knee injury and the off-season improvement of Kam Hunt, a 1995 blue-chip signee.

Up front, the tackle spots remain the same but the coaches expect big things from a pair of first-year starters at end: Matt Harper, a transfer from Stanford, and Chance McCarty, a converted quarterback. In the secondary, cornerback Godfrey White (57 tackles, 10 pass def.) and strong safety Chris Staten (70 tackles) are proven commodities.

SPECIAL TEAMS: One word describes kicker Michael Reeder's record from inside 39 yards: Perfect. In two seasons, the 1995 Lou Groza Award winner hit every extra-point try and connected on 26 of 26 field-goal attempts from 38 yards or closer. Reeder's career conversion rate on field goals stands at a staggering 85 percent (34 of 40). Now, he may be asked to punt as well.

RECRUITING: Sullivan anticipates major contributions from 1996 signees Hunt—the Frog's most celebrated signee in a decade—Taylor, Terrance Cook (cornerback), Mike Brown (tight end), Matt Shane (defensive end) and Rodney Lauderdale (wide receiver) as well as Harper, who sat out the 1995 season after transferring.

Jimmy Burch covers the WAC for the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Fred Taylor (Jr., 6-1, 190)	Todd Stanford (Jr., 6-3, 188)
RB: Andre Bruce (So., 5-10, 180)	Basil Mitchell (So., 5-11, 190)
RB: Koi Woods (Sr., 6-0, 225)*	Lance Williams (So., 6-1, 220)
WR: John Washington (Sr., 5-9, 160)*	Torrie Simmons (Fr., 6-3, 195)
WR: Jason Tucker (Jr., 6-2, 180)	Tavarus Moore (So., 6-1, 178)
TE: Travis Wilson (So., 6-3, 240)	Kyle Williams (Fr., 6-4, 235)
LT: Mark Cortez (Jr., 6-3, 290)*	Jon Donahue (So., 6-6, 270)
LG: Fabian Stegall (Sr., 6-3, 270)*	Doug Loeser (Jr., 6-3, 285)
C: Ryan Tucker (Sr., 6-6, 290)*	Clifton Clemons (Fr., 6-4, 290)
RG: James Smith (So., 6-5, 285)	J.P. McFarland (So., 6-4, 270)
RT: Greg Davis (So., 6-4, 300)	Paul Harmon (Fr., 6-8, 292)

DEFENSE

DE: Matt Harper (Jr., 6-6, 255)	Akili Johnson (Fr., 6-1, 230)
NT: Bernard Oldham (Sr., 6-2, 280)*	Michael Janak (Sr., 6-3, 260)
DT: Geoffrey Hyder (Sr., 6-5, 285)*	Michael Janak (Sr., 6-3, 260)
DE: Chance McCarty (Jr., 6-4, 230)	Daryl Johnson (So., 6-2, 230)
LB: Tony Brown (Sr., 6-2, 215)	Kam Hunt (So., 6-3, 205)
LB: Scott Taft (Jr., 6-3, 228)	Marvin Mullins (So., 5-11, 233)
LB: Geoff Stephens (Sr., 6-0, 215)*	Jay Davern (Jr., 6-1, 215)
CB: Godfrey White (Jr., 5-10, 180)*	Corey Masters (Jr., 5-10, 183)
CB: Cedric Allen (Sr., 5-10, 185)	Terrance Cook (Fr., 5-11, 190)
SS: Chris Staten (Jr., 5-11, 170)*	Joseph Phipps (So., 6-2, 205)
FS: Lenward Bentley (So., 5-11, 190)	Barry Browning (So., 5-9, 190)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Michael Reeder (Jr., 6-0, 162)*	Todd Fitzgerald (Jr., 6-0, 205)
P: Michael Reeder (Jr., 6-0, 162)	Royce Huffman (Fr., 6-0, 200)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Pat Sullivan, 5th year, 19-25-1

'95 RECORD: 6-5 (3-4 SWC)

HOME STADIUM: Amon G. Carter Stadium, Fort

Worth, Texas (46,000, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 11 (5 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Chris Piland, DL (1st-team All-SWC); Max Knake, QB; Andre Davis, RB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: None

RUSHING: Koi Woods, Sr., 74 carries, 350 yards, 2 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): John Washington, Sr., 52, 6 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Washington, 699 yards

TACKLES: Geoff Stephens, Sr., 80

SACKS: Six tied with one each

INTERCEPTIONS: Cedric Allen, Sr., and Corey Masters, Jr., 1 each

PUNTING: None

KICKING: Michael Reeder, Jr., 23-25 FGs (long 47); 20-20 PATs

SCORING: Reeder, 89 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	at Oklahoma
Sept. 14	KANSAS
Sept. 28	at New Mexico
Oct. 5	at Tulane
Oct. 12	UTEP
Oct. 19	at Utah
Oct. 26	BYU (HC)
Nov. 2	UNLV
Nov. 9	at Tulsa
Nov. 16	RICE
Nov. 23	at SMU

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 9	IOWA STATE; W, 27-10
Sept. 14	at Kansas; L, 38-20
Sept. 23	at Vanderbilt; W, 16-3
Oct. 7	HOUSTON; W, 31-21
Oct. 14	at Rice; W, 33-28
Oct. 21	TULANE; W, 16-11
Oct. 28	at Baylor; L, 27-24
Nov. 4	SMU; W, 19-16
Nov. 11	at Texas Tech; L, 26-7
Nov. 18	at Texas; L, 27-19
Nov. 25	TEXAS A&M; L, 36-8

MILESTONE

■ TCU seeks its third consecutive winning season for the first time in 37 years (1957-'59).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- First-year starters at quarterback and tailback must learn as they go, with a minimum of mistakes.
- A better pass rush must come from the returning defenders.
- Develop a killer instinct when offense gets inside the red zone.



TULSA

FACTS

COACH: Dave Rader, 9th year, 38-51-1
 '95 RECORD: 4-7 (Independent)
 HOME STADIUM: Skelly Stadium, Tulsa, Okla.
 (40,385, artificial)
 RETURNING STARTERS: 15 (8 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)
 KEY PLAYERS LOST: Sedrick Clark, DL; Michael Kedzior, WR; Mark DeLozier, P

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Troy DeGar, Sr., 120-245-1,304 yards, 6 TDs, 7 INTs
 RUSHING: Reggie Williams, Soph., 144 carries, 729 yards, 4 TDs
 RECEIVING (CATCHES): Jason Bennett, Jr., 16
 RECEIVING (YARDS): Mark Lippe, Jr., 137
 TACKLES: Muadianvita Kazadi, Sr., 97
 SACKS: Sean O'Boyle, Jr., 6
 INTERCEPTIONS: Jeremy Bunch, Sr., 6
 PUNTING: None
 KICKING: James Anderson, Jr., 12-16 FGs (long 42), 23-23 PATs
 SCORING: Anderson, 59 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...at SMU
 Sept. 14 ...at Oklahoma State
 Sept. 21 ...IOWA
 Sept. 28 ...at Oklahoma
 Oct. 12 ...COLORADO STATE
 Oct. 19 ...BYU (HC)
 Oct. 26 ...at Utah
 Nov. 2 ...NEW MEXICO
 Nov. 9 ...TCU
 Nov. 16 ...at UTEP
 Nov. 23 ...at Rice

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...BAYLOR; L, 37-5
 Sept. 9 ...OKLAHOMA STATE; W, 24-23
 Sept. 16 ...at Texas A&M; L, 52-9
 Sept. 23 ...EAST TENNESSEE STATE; W, 45-20
 Sept. 30 ...at Louisiana Tech; L, 27-23
 Oct. 7 ...WYOMING; W, 35-6
 Oct. 14 ...at UTEP; W, 38-28
 Oct. 28 ...at Memphis; L, 10-7
 Nov. 4 ...at BYU; L, 45-35
 Nov. 11 ...at East Carolina; L, 28-7
 Nov. 18 ...CINCINNATI; L, 24-5

MILESTONES

- The Golden Hurricane seeks its first winning record since 1991.
- A 100-yard kickoff return for Jason Jacoby would be his third in as many seasons.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- The pass defense must improve.
- Wide receiver Wes Caswell needs to remain healthy.
- Better early-game scoring.

By JIMMY BURCH

In his school's first season as Western Athletic Conference members, Tulsa coach Dave Rader figures it will take about a month to discover if opposing teams will dread the arrival of the Golden Hurricane as much as the play-by-play announcers. The Tulsa defense features first-year starters Salifu Abdulhai and Nelson Van Waes, as well as Muadianvita Kazadi, a standout middle linebacker who has led the team in tackles the past two seasons.

Tulsa also welcomes back eight starters on offense and a regular from 1994—wide receiver Wes Caswell—who missed last season with an ankle injury. But how well the Golden Hurricane, a 4-7 team as an independent in 1995, fares in the weekly WAC wars is anyone's guess.

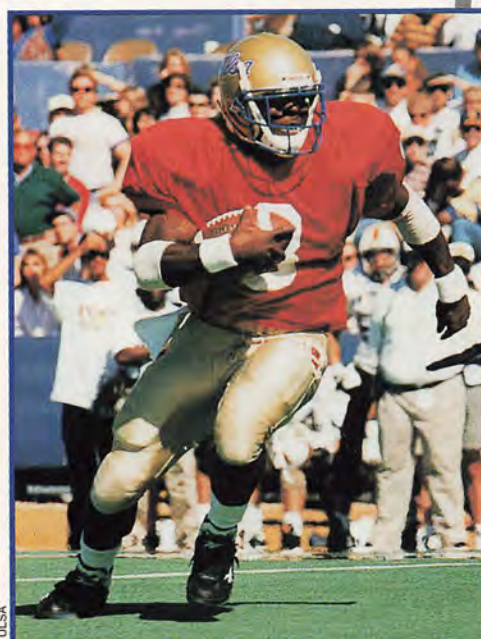
"We've never been in a conference, so we're not just coming at this from left field... we're coming from out of the parking lot," Rader said.

Rader hopes to find an affirmative answer from senior quarterback Troy DeGar, who heads into his second season as a full-time starter, as well as a fleet of dangerous tailbacks. He'll have an experienced offensive line clearing the paths and providing the protection, but he needs more accuracy from DeGar, a 49-percent passer in 1995.

"That's what we emphasized all spring—improving in the passing game on both sides of the ball," Rader said. "The one thing I know is, you've got to throw a little bit in this league to be successful."

OFFENSE: DeGar works behind four returning starters on the offensive line and will have a much-needed addition in Caswell, missed a year ago when Tulsa managed just six touchdown passes.

The backfield figures to be crowded. Senior Solomon White rushed for 1,003 yards in 1994 but lost his starting job for a time last season to Reggie Williams, who averaged 104.1 yards per contest before being sidelined after seven games with a hamstring injury. Both could be watching this fall if heralded recruit Kevin Isham (2,255 yards and 30 touchdowns while leading his Frederick,



SOLOMON WHITE-RB

Okla., team to its third consecutive state championship in 1995) lives up to advance billing.

"He's going to have to show us he's not ready to play," Rader said of Isham, a 6-foot-1, 212-pounder with 4.5 speed. "He looks every bit the part."

DEFENSE: A pair of first-year starters, Van Waes and Ryan Farley, man the tackle spots in the Hurricane's 4-3 alignment that relies upon Kazadi (97 tackles) to be the playmaker in the middle. Abdulhai, who had two sacks in abbreviated work at outside linebacker, moves to defensive end to become a speed rusher opposite Sean O'Boyle (six sacks).

In an effort to add speed to the secondary, receiver Marshall Gordon switched over to cornerback. Gordon is expected to start, with incumbent Terrance Joseph shifting to strong safety (53 tackles), setting up a battle with returnee Brian Self. Earnest King, a 1995 JUCO transfer who redshirted last season, holds down the other cornerback spot. The right safety remains Jeremy Bunch, whose six interceptions ranked eighth nationally last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Kirk Myrick, a Pearl River (Miss.) JC transfer with strong credentials (40.4 avg.), handles the punting duties. James Anderson takes care of the place-kicking chores. Jason Jacoby has scored two career touchdowns on kickoff returns, including a 100-yarder last season against BYU.

RECRUITING: Isham, Myrick and a pair of JUCO signees—linebacker Rich Young and wide receiver Jeremiah Brister—figure to contribute immediately. In dire need of speed, Tulsa has five signees who break 4.5 in the 40-yard dash. Heading that group is Isham, who picked Tulsa over Oklahoma and is a bellcow among a 21-player class Rader termed the best in his eight seasons at the school.

"This would not have happened had we not been in the WAC. That may have been a program-saving move for us," Rader said.

Jimmy Burch covers the WAC for the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Troy DeGar (Sr., 6-1, 215)* John Fitzgerald (So., 6-3, 220)
 RB: Reggie Williams (So., 5-10, 235) Solomon White (Sr., 5-8, 189)*
 RB: Jason Bennett (Jr., 6-3, 209)* Andrew Bates (Sr., 6-0, 236)
 WR: Wes Caswell (Jr., 5-8, 183) Jerrold Smith (Fr., 5-11, 188)
 WR: Jason Jacoby (Jr., 5-10, 199) John Mosley (So., 5-9, 206)
 TE: Mark Lippe (Jr., 6-2, 262)* Tony Fisher (So., 6-2, 266)
 LT: Michael Ruhl (Jr., 6-7, 280)* Anthony Ratika (Fr., 6-5, 285)
 LG: Brad Smith (Jr., 6-2, 282)* Brian Pollan (So., 6-3, 283)
 C: Doug Pisula (Sr., 6-3, 288)* Brian Pollan (So., 6-3, 283)
 RG: Brian Newnam (Sr., 6-4, 292)* Ben Barber (Fr., 6-3, 253)
 RT: Matt Bing (So., 6-4, 287) Jason Mills (So., 6-5, 291)

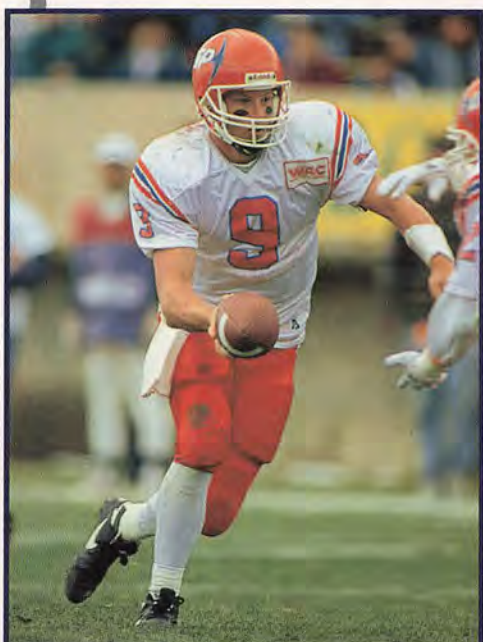
DEFENSE

DE: Salifu Abdulhai (Sr., 6-2, 239) Justin Reich (Jr., 6-2, 240)
 DT: Ryan Farley (So., 6-3, 303) Tim Martin (So., 6-4, 272)
 DT: Nelson Van Waes (Sr., 6-4, 284) Andy Potts (Fr., 6-6, 275)
 DE: Sean O'Boyle (Jr., 6-7, 261)* Carlos Hopkins (Fr., 6-4, 266)
 LB: Chris Fowler (Sr., 5-11, 210)* Allen Blackmon (So., 5-11, 217)
 LB: M. Kazadi (Sr., 6-2, 236)* Jeremy McClure (Fr., 6-2, 228)
 LB: Jody Sparks (Jr., 6-4, 227) Rich Young (Jr., 6-0, 231)
 CB: Marshall Gordon (So., 5-11, 192) Eugene Armstrong (Fr., 5-9, 186)
 CB: Earnest King (Jr., 6-0, 180) Todd Franz (Fr., 6-1, 190)
 SS: Terrance Joseph (Jr., 6-2, 218)* Brian Self (Jr., 5-11, 199)
 FS: Jeremy Bunch (Sr., 6-0, 207)* Levi Gillen (Jr., 5-10, 186)*

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: James Anderson (Jr., 6-0, 189)* Brian Sendker (Sr., 6-0, 183)
 P: Kirk Myrick (Jr., 6-1, 201) John Fitzgerald (So., 6-3, 220)
 (* denotes returning starter)

TEXAS-EL PASO



JOHN RAYBORN-QB

By ANDY KATZ

You don't have to visualize the frailty. The coaching staff lets you know quite early that UTEP is never going to have it easy in football, let alone in the Western Athletic Conference.

The school's Sun Bowl Stadium is certainly a gem (it even hosts a bowl game), but the offices are cramped and definitely call out for a bit of refurbishing. The priorities are for players, plenty of players.

"It's a tough job," said Miners coach Charlie Bailey. "We are isolated. The biggest cities are hundreds of miles away and there are schools in each one."

And now competitors, too. UTEP used to pitch the WAC to prospects in Houston and Dallas. No more. Although Rice (located in Houston) and TCU and SMU (in the Dallas-Fort Worth area) have tougher academic standards than UTEP, the Miners can't sell a recruit on the merits of being the only Texas link to the West.

The feeling of being left out was increased when UTEP was lumped with WAC rivals New Mexico, Brigham Young and Utah in a quadrant. The three other Texas schools and Tulsa were in another quadrant but play UTEP for at least the next two seasons as the two four-team quads link to form the Mountain Division in the expanded WAC.

UTEP's lone win before upsetting New Mexico in Week 11 came against I-AA Valdosta State. And the prospects for this season aren't much better, with a schedule that includes road games at Arizona, BYU and TCU.

OFFENSE: At least 26 players missed at least one game last season due to injuries, but no one will be missed more than Toraino Singleton, who rushed for 1,358 yards a year ago. His eligibility expired, and finding a replacement among Joseph Polk, Jimmy Russell, Alex Ruiz and Courtney Ray won't be easy.

The inexperience in the backfield will lead to a more balanced offense. Quarterbacks John Rayborn and Leonard Lilja will battle for the starting spot again, with Rayborn holding the edge after throwing for 159.4 yards a game and 16 touchdowns. A concern has to be speed at receiver. Cedric Johnson will play the split back and get chances to catch the football out of the backfield. Jimmy Carpenter, Joe Chaney and Raymond Murphy will handle the split end spot.

DEFENSE: Bailey made a change when he brought in new defensive coordinator Bill Clay. He'll institute a 3-4 defensive scheme and a more aggressive approach to a defense that was last in the nation in scoring defense (40.5 ppg.).

Linebacker Micheal Comer is the anchor and could be the WAC Defensive Player of the Year. He was second in the WAC in tackles (152), tied for fifth in tackles for a loss and third in causing fumbles. Up front, Best Ihegborow and Jason Dixon return and will obviously need to be improved.

Junior college transfers Terrance Blaine, a linebacker, and Tony Wallace, a defensive lineman, could have an immediate impact.

"We can't let teams run the football against us the way they did," Bailey said. "We've got to make adjustments."

SPECIAL TEAMS: Adjustments are needed on special teams, too, where the Miners will be trying out a new kicker. Jon Olsen, who handled the punting last season, is the only candidate to take over for Marshall Young, who was 29 of 29 on extra points last season but 5 of 11 on field goals. Ray Bailie continues to handle punt returns and Johnson, who had 46 kickoff returns last season, is also back.

RECRUITING: Bailey had to bring in help immediately on defense, and the Miners added 11 players on that side. Ten of the players are junior college transfers.

Andy Katz covers WAC football for the Fresno Bee.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE			
QB: John Rayborn (So., 6-2, 205)*	Leonard Lilja (Sr., 6-2, 202)		
RB: Joseph Polk (So., 5-10, 190)	Alex Ruiz (Jr., 5-9, 184)		
RB: Jimmy Russell (So., 5-10, 228)	Courtney Ray (So., 6-0, 215)		
WR: Cedric Johnson (Sr., 5-7, 153)*	Neil Staab (So., 6-0, 198)		
WR: Jimmy Carpenter (So., 6-1, 172)	Joe Chaney (Sr., 6-0, 180)		
TE: Tony Rodriguez (Sr., 6-4, 235)	Jason Blair (Sr., 6-5, 262)*		
LT: Robert Carter (Fr., 6-5, 310)	Brad Davis (Jr., 6-3, 285)		
LG: Abdul Stewart (Sr., 6-2, 295)	Mike Pry (Fr., 6-3, 290)		
C: Keith Boyd (Sr., 6-3, 284)*	Brandon Cumbie (Jr., 6-2, 283)		
RG: Nick Griego (Sr., 6-3, 280)*	Alan Gray (So., 6-4, 277)		
RT: Jesus Renteria (Sr., 6-3, 272)*	Yancey Turner (So., 6-5, 309)		
DEFENSE			
DE: Best Ihegborow (Sr., 6-2, 240)*	Aaron Grinstead (Sr., 6-5, 240)		
NT: Phillip Hippolyte (Sr., 6-3, 288)	John Houser (Jr., 6-2, 242)		
DE: Jason Dixon (Sr., 6-1, 260)*	Chris Harris (Fr., 6-3, 239)		
LB: Andrew Kelley (So., 6-1, 216)	Brian Young (So., 6-4, 251)		
LB: Micheal Comer (Sr., 5-9, 260)*	Derek Wright (Fr., 6-3, 208)		
LB: Dale Kirry (So., 6-0, 229)*	Brent Henderson (Jr., 6-0, 244)		
LB: Terrance Blaine (Jr., 6-1, 215)	Matt Kennedy (Jr., 6-0, 235)		
CB: Michael Hicks (So., 6-3, 203)	DeAndros Long (Sr., 6-0, 176)		
CB: Darius Ellison (So., 5-10, 157)	Alan Jackson (Sr., 6-1, 201)		
SS: Ray Bailie (Sr., 5-10, 177)*	Dan Sanchez (So., 5-10, 175)		
FS: David Terrell (Jr., 6-2, 172)*	Al Gonzalez (Jr., 5-10, 197)		
SPECIAL TEAMS			
K: Jon Olsen (Sr., 6-1, 163)	Ricky Bishop (Fr., 5-10, 185)		
P: Jon Olsen (Sr., 6-1, 163)*	Ricky Bishop (Fr., 5-10, 185)		

(* denotes returning starter)



FACTS

COACH: Charlie Bailey, 3rd year, 5-17-1
'95 RECORD: 2-10 (1-7 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas (52,000, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 13 (6 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Toraino Singleton, RB (2nd-team All-WAC); Jesse Villareal, OL (Hon. mention All-WAC); Marshall Young, K (Hon. mention All-WAC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: John Rayborn, Soph., 156-295-1,913 yards, 16 TDs, 13 INTs
RUSHING: Rayborn, 111 carries, 256 yards, 4 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Cedric Johnson, Sr., 28, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Johnson, 479
TACKLES: Micheal Comer, Sr., 152
SACKS: Jason Dixon, Sr., 5
INTERCEPTIONS: David Terrell, Jr., 3
PUNTING: Jon Olsen, Sr., 39.5 avg.
KICKING: None
SCORING: Johnson, 36 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 . . . at Arizona
 Sept. 14 . . . NEW MEXICO STATE
 Sept. 21 . . . at San Jose State
 Sept. 28 . . . at Northern Illinois
 Oct. 5 . . . UTAH
 Oct. 12 . . . at TCU
 Oct. 26 . . . RICE (HC)
 Nov. 2 . . . at BYU
 Nov. 9 . . . SMU
 Nov. 16 . . . TULSA
 Nov. 23 . . . at New Mexico

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . . at New Mexico State; L, 45-17
 Sept. 9 . . . at Arizona State; L, 45-20
 Sept. 16 . . . VALDOSTA STATE; W, 34-24
 Sept. 23 . . . at Hawaii; L, 42-21
 Sept. 30 . . . UTAH; L, 34-21
 Oct. 7 . . . at Air Force; L, 56-46
 Oct. 14 . . . TULSA; L, 38-28
 Oct. 28 . . . SAN DIEGO STATE; L, 45-16
 Nov. 4 . . . at Colorado State; L, 56-10
 Nov. 11 . . . at Fresno State; L, 47-14
 Nov. 18 . . . NEW MEXICO; W, 17-12
 Nov. 25 . . . WYOMING; L, 42-19

MILESTONE

■ UTEP's last road win was at Tulsa in 1994, and the team hasn't had one in the WAC since beating Utah in Salt Lake City in 1992.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Stop the run. Try to stop the pass.
- Find a replacement for Toraino Singleton at running back.
- Must have a more consistent offensive threat at quarterback.



WYOMING

FACTS

COACH: Joe Tiller, 6th year, 29-28-1
'95 RECORD: 6-5 (4-4 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: War Memorial Stadium, Laramie, Wyo. (33,500, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS 17 (9 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Joe Cummings, DL (1st-team All-WAC); Brian Gragert, P (1st-team All-WAC); Jason Holanda, LB (2nd-team All-WAC); Mark Brook, DL; Jason Bartlett, OL; Ryan Oman, OL; Jermaine McDowell, RB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Josh Wallwork, Sr., 163-271-2,363 yards, 21 TDs, 13 INTs
RUSHING: Len Sexton, Sr., 129 carries, 810 yards, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Marcus Harris, Sr., 78, 14 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Harris, 1,423
TACKLES: Jim Talich, Jr., 103
SACKS: Brent Leu, Sr., 5
INTERCEPTIONS: Lee Vaughn, Sr., and Greg Van Leer, Jr., 3 each
PUNTING: None
KICKING: Cory Wedel, Jr., 14-18 FGs (long 46), 39-39 PATs
SCORING: Harris, 84 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ... IDAHO
 Sept. 7 ... at Iowa State
 Sept. 14 ... HAWAII
 Sept. 21 ... AIR FORCE
 Sept. 28 ... at UNLV
 Oct. 5 ... at San Jose State
 Oct. 12 ... WESTERN MICHIGAN (HC)
 Oct. 19 ... FRESNO STATE
 Nov. 2 ... SOUTHERN METHODIST
 Nov. 9 ... at San Diego State
 Nov. 16 ... at Colorado State

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 9 ... at Air Force; L, 34-10
 Sept. 16 ... HAWAII; W, 52-6
 Sept. 23 ... OKLAHOMA STATE; W, 45-25
 Oct. 7 ... at Tulsa; L, 35-6
 Oct. 14 ... LOUISVILLE; W, 27-20
 Oct. 21 ... at BYU; L, 23-20
 Oct. 28 ... COLORADO STATE; L, 31-24
 Nov. 4 ... UTAH; L, 30-24
 Nov. 11 ... at San Diego State; W, 34-31
 Nov. 18 ... FRESNO STATE; W, 38-10
 Nov. 25 ... at UTEP; W, 42-19

MILESTONE

■ WR Marcus Harris needs 1,489 yards to surpass former Wyoming star Ryan Yarbrough (4,357, 1990-'93) as the NCAA's all-time receiving yardage leader.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Finding defensive ends to replace bookends Joe Cummings and Mark Brook.
- Keep QB Josh Wallwork healthy.
- A big year from RB Len Sexton to prevent defenses from keying on WR Marcus Harris.

By PHIL MILLER

Wyoming's biggest recruiting coup this winter wasn't some blue-chip freshman or JUCO stud. No, the Cowboys were most ecstatic to hear that Marcus Harris, their All-WAC receiver, will play 1996 in Laramie and not Dallas, Green Bay or some other NFL city.

Harris, a 6-foot-2, 209-pound native of Minneapolis, has ranked either first or second nationally in receiving yardage each of the past two seasons. But instead of cashing in his considerable talents for a fat NFL contract, he is staying in Wyoming, turning a decent Cowboys offense into a truly dangerous one.

"I can't tell you how eager we are to play football," coach Joe Tiller said. "If Marcus isn't the No. 1 receiver in football this season, he's got to be in the top handful."

Somebody tell Tiller that Harris is already there. Named first-team All America by the Football Coaches Association, Harris gained 1,423 yards and scored 14 touchdowns in 1995. He'll try to become the first receiver in NCAA history to surpass 1,400 yards three straight seasons.

Tiller's biggest worry? "We may get forced into going to Marcus more than we should."

But with an impressive 18.2-yard average per catch, that's a bigger worry for WAC defenses.

OFFENSE: Harris' pursuit of Ryan Yarbrough's school receiving records is far from the only reason to watch the Cowboys' offense. Nine starters return to a squad that ranked 12th nationally in total offense a year ago (451 yards per game). That ranking could have been even better, but a WAC-high 34 turnovers short-circuited too many drives.

Josh Wallwork, who completed 60 percent of his passes and threw for 21 touchdowns, is back at quarterback, although he had surgery to his throwing wrist in January to correct Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. That's somewhat worrisome, since the Cowboys' season was damaged when broken ribs slowed Wallwork in 1995. Wyoming lost three straight conference games by seven points or less



MARCUS HARRIS-WR

with its starting quarterback nursing the injury.

Tiller realizes he may need two quarterbacks and plans to give senior John Davis ample playing time.

Len Sexton, a converted cornerback who rushed for 810 yards in just nine games, will get the ball often in Wyoming's one-back offense.

DEFENSE: In a league that's hell on pass defenses, the Cowboys' was the best, allowing only eight touchdown passes. Even better, the entire secondary, led by senior cornerbacks Lee Vaughn and Waymon Levingston, returns.

Knowing he must replace defensive ends Joe Cummings and Mark Brook, Wyoming's leading sackers a year ago, Tiller brought in a squad of junior college pass rushers to join two redshirts. Newcomer Aaron Bentley set a national JUCO record at Monterey Peninsula (Calif.) with 18.5 sacks in 1995, "and I don't even know yet if he's the best of the lot or the worst," Tiller said.

The coach is most concerned about finding outside linebackers to flank Jim Talich. Seniors Jay Jenkins and Chuck Polson are possibilities, but redshirt freshman D.J. Eliot will be given a shot as well.

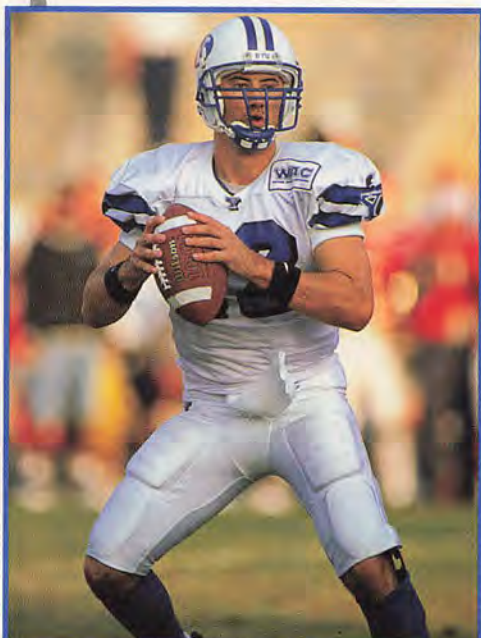
SPECIAL TEAMS: Cory Wedel had a spectacular all-conference season as Wyoming's placekicker, overcoming the High Plains winds to hit 14 of 18 field-goal attempts. Punting could be a problem, since Brian Gragert, a second-team All America after averaging 45.2 yards a kick, has departed. Inexperienced sophomores Chris Stanton and Aaron Langley will compete for the job.

RECRUITING: The Cowboys figure they might have the next Marcus Harris in town already after luring Arizona Class 5A 200-meter champion Marcus Brunson. And to throw the ball to him, Wyoming outrecruited Oklahoma and Washington to sign Colorado Springs quarterback Jay Stoner, who threw for more than 3,200 yards his last two seasons.

Phil Miller is a staff writer for the Salt Lake City Tribune.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE			
QB: Josh Wallwork (Sr., 6-3, 207)*	John Davis (Sr., 6-2, 207)		
RB: Len Sexton (Sr., 5-11, 175)*	Marques Brigham (So., 5-10, 199)		
RB: David Saraf (Sr., 5-10, 181)*	Dallas Rose (Sr., 6-3, 240)		
WR: Marcus Harris (Sr., 6-2, 209)*	B. Derenoncourt (So., 5-10, 156)		
WR: Richard Pearce (Sr., 6-0, 187)*	W. Montgomery (Fr., 6-2, 209)		
TE: Kirby Drobe (Fr., 6-5, 244)	Greg Kuhn (Sr., 6-2, 258)*		
LT: Rob Bohlinger (Jr., 6-9, 280)	D. Hamilton (Jr., 6-3, 279)		
LG: Jay Korth (Jr., 6-4, 285)*	Terry Staffs (So., 6-3, 212)		
C: Bob Rathbun (Sr., 6-3, 263)*	Jeff Smith (So., 6-4, 281)		
RG: Shane Glasser (Jr., 6-8, 293)	Nate Selik (Fr., 6-6, 293)		
RT: Steve Scifres (Sr., 6-5, 291)*	Trifon Demos (Fr., 6-4, 292)		
DEFENSE			
DE: Jason Dreessen (Fr., 6-3, 254)	Jeff Leonard (Jr., 6-3, 250)		
DT: Pat Larson (Sr., 6-5, 280)	Monti Perry (Sr., 6-2, 253)		
DT: Brent Leu (Sr., 6-6, 270)*	Mike Graham (Jr., 6-2, 266)		
DE: Stuart Hanson (Jr., 6-3, 251)	Aaron Bentley (Jr., 6-2, 245)		
LB: Jay Jenkins (Sr., 6-2, 228)*	Micha Christensen (Jr., 6-1, 221)		
LB: Jim Talich (Jr., 6-1, 236)*	Kalim Underwood (Jr., 6-0, 236)		
LB: Chuck Polson (Sr., 6-0, 213)	D.J. Eliot (Fr., 6-1, 216)		
CB: Lee Vaughn (Sr., 5-11, 178)*	Robbie Duncan (Fr., 5-11, 175)		
CB: W. Levingston (Sr., 5-9, 169)*	Je'Ney Jackson (Jr., 5-9, 179)		
SS: Greg Van Leer (Jr., 5-11, 189)*	Trent Gamble (Fr., 5-9, 182)		
FS: Brian Lee (Jr., 6-2, 196)*	T.W. Steele (Fr., 5-9, 175)		
SPECIAL TEAMS			
K: Cory Wedel (Jr., 5-9, 189)*	Chris Stanton (So., 6-0, 199)		
P: Chris Stanton (So., 6-0, 199)	Aron Langley (So., 6-0, 177)		
(* denotes returning starter)			



ALLEN KEE/BOB ROSATO SPORT PHOTOGRAPHY

STEVE SARKISIAN-QB

By PHIL MILLER

It could be a long year in Provo. At least, the Cougars hope so. Brigham Young accepted an invitation to host Texas A&M in the 1996 Pigskin Classic in August, despite an already grueling 12-game regular-season schedule. Should they qualify, the Cougars could play in the first WAC championship game in December. Add a possible bowl game, and the Cougars may become the first Division I-A school to play an exhausting 15 games in one season.

But nobody is taking that bowl trip for granted anymore, not after a 1995 season that was a long one for different reasons: Try scandal, fan unrest and maddening inconsistency on the field.

"We had an awful lot happen to us," said coach LaVell Edwards, who despite everything celebrated his 65th birthday by signing a contract extension.

Yet nothing happened to the Cougars in late December—after 17 straight bowl appearances, BYU spent the postseason at home.

Edwards' reaction? Humbug.

"We'll just have to start a new streak," he said. He has the raw materials in place, with 13 returning starters, including quarterback Steve Sarkisian. And if there's a better motivator than missing a bowl game, maybe it's losing to arch-rival Utah for the third straight year. "That's still hard to explain," grimaced Edwards.

Now, if the Cougars can avoid off-field distractions—five players were expelled and two others suspended last year for various Honor Code violations—perhaps Edwards can enjoy the longest season of his career.

OFFENSE: The Cougars' great quarterback experiment was a resounding success. Sarkisian, the first junior college passer to be handed the reins of BYU's offense, lived up to his billing with a 3,437-yard, 20-touchdown junior season. He closed his first season in Provo with a spectacular

31-of-34, 399-yard performance in the 1995 finale against Fresno State. "He did everything we asked of him," Edwards said. "I don't know where we would have been without him."

That's because the Cougars were operating for the most part without a running game. BYU ranked last in the nation much of the season, and six times failed to reach 100 yards on the ground. Mark Atuaia, who averaged just 37 yards per game, is the leading returning rusher.

Tight end will be a team strength again, especially if All-WAC first-teamer Chad Lewis (31 catches, 456 yards in eight games) can recover from an ankle injury that cut his season short.

DEFENSE: Henry Bloomfield took advantage of a teammate's suspension to establish himself as a reliable pass rusher. That experience pays off this year, since John Raass and Mike Ulufale leave large holes on BYU's defensive front.

One possible solution may be a new version of an old Cougar standard: The brother act. Freshmen Shane and Issiah Magalei, both 6-foot-3 and 290 pounds, will try to step right in.

Behind them, All-WAC performer Shay Muirbrook anchors an experienced set of linebackers. Safety Eddie Sampson and cornerback Tim McTyler were BYU's best defensive backs a year ago and both return.

SPECIAL TEAMS: James Dye saved the Cougars during tough times in 1995, winning two games with punt returns. His 21.9-yard average led the nation, and Edwards called him "as exciting a player as we've ever had around here."

Alan Boardman is back after a solid season (41.2 yards per punt) as the Cougars' punter.

RECRUITING: Edwards lured Bret Engemann, the state's top quarterback prospect, away from Utah, along with Los Alamitos, Calif., star quarterback Kevin Feterik. Running back Ronney Jenkins rushed for a national-record 619 yards in one game as a senior at Hueneme (Calif.) H.S.

Phil Miller is a staff writer for the Salt Lake Tribune.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Steve Sarkisian (Sr., 6-2, 210)*	Paul Shoemaker (So., 6-0, 190)
RB: Dustin Johnson (Jr., 6-3, 230)	Ned Stearns (Fr., 6-0, 195)
RB: Mark Atuaia (Sr., 5-10, 200)	Aaron Cupp (So., 6-1, 205)
WR: K.O. Kealaluhi (Sr., 6-0, 200)	Ben Cahoon (Jr., 5-9, 180)
WR: Kaipo McGuire (Sr., 5-10, 170)*	James Dye (Sr., 5-9, 150)
TE: Chad Lewis (Sr., 6-6, 235)*	Itala Mili (Sr., 6-4, 235)*
LT: Matt Cox (Jr., 6-6, 285)	John Tait (Fr., 6-6, 290)
LG: James Johnson (Sr., 6-6, 295)	Jason Andersen (So., 6-6, 295)
C: Larry Moore (Sr., 6-3, 290)*	Murray Zogg (Sr., 6-2, 270)
RG: Greg Hoagland (Jr., 6-3, 300)	Nathan Howard (So., 6-5, 285)
RT: Eric Dateman (So., 6-7, 285)	Charles Jones (Sr., 6-7, 290)

DEFENSE

DE: Ed Kehl (So., 6-4, 275)*	Byron Frisch (Fr., 6-6, 260)
DT: Henry Bloomfield (Sr., 6-2, 290)*	Shane Magalei (Fr., 6-3, 290)
DT: Harland Ah You (Jr., 6-1, 265)	Issiah Magalei (Fr., 6-3, 290)
DE: Daren Yancey (So., 6-6, 275)	Ed Lamb (Sr., 6-5, 255)
LB: Brad Martin (So., 6-1, 230)*	Donny Atuaia (Fr., 6-1, 225)
LB: Shay Muirbrook (Sr., 6-1, 235)*	Spencer Reid (Jr., 6-1, 245)
LB: Dennis Simmons (Sr., 6-4, 230)*	Nate Foreman (Fr., 6-3, 200)
CB: Dustin Staley (So., 5-11, 185)	Nikia McKinney (Jr., 6-0, 167)
CB: Tim McTyler (Sr., 5-11, 170)*	Ben Cook (Jr., 6-0, 175)
FS: Eddie Sampson (Sr., 6-2, 195)*	Tyler Nelson (Fr., 6-3, 190)
SS: Lane Hale (Sr., 6-1, 190)	Jason Walker (So., 6-1, 190)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Cade Schaeffer (Sr., 6-2, 190)	Ethan Pochman (Sr., 6-1, 175)
P: Alan Boardman (Sr., 5-11, 195)*	John Davis (So., 5-10, 175)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: LaVell Edwards, 25th year, 214-80-3

'95 RECORD: 7-4 (6-2 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Cougar Stadium, Provo, Utah (65,000, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 13 (5 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: John Raass, DT (1st-team All-WAC); Stan Raass, LB (1st-team All-WAC); Hema Heimuli, RB (2nd-team All-WAC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Steve Sarkisian, Sr., 250-385-3,437

yards, 20 TDs, 14 INTs

RUSHING: Mark Atuaia, Sr., 101 carries, 374

yards, 5 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Itala Mili, Sr., 36, 3 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): K.O. Kealaluhi, 483

TACKLES: Eddie Sampson, Sr., 88

SACKS: Henry Bloomfield and Shay Muirbrook, Srs., 3.5 each

INTERCEPTIONS: Sampson, 5

PUNTING: Alan Boardman, Sr., 41.2 avg.

KICKING: None

SCORING: Atuaia, 30 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 .. TEXAS A&M (Pigskin Classic)

Aug. 31 .. ARKANSAS STATE

Sept. 14 .. at Washington

Sept. 21 .. NEW MEXICO

Sept. 28 .. SMU

Oct. 4 .. at Utah State

Oct. 12 .. UNLV (HC)

Oct. 19 .. at Tulsa

Oct. 26 .. at TCU

Nov. 2 .. UTEP

Nov. 9 .. RICE

Nov. 16 .. at Hawaii

Nov. 23 .. at Utah

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 .. at Air Force; L, 38-12

Sept. 9 .. UCLA; L, 23-9

Sept. 16 .. SAN DIEGO STATE; W, 31-19

Sept. 30 .. at Colorado State; W, 28-21

Oct. 14 .. at Arizona State; L, 29-21

Oct. 21 .. WYOMING; W, 23-20

Oct. 28 .. HAWAII; W, 45-7

Nov. 4 .. TULSA; W, 45-35

Nov. 11 .. at New Mexico; W, 31-14

Nov. 18 .. UTAH; L, 34-17

Nov. 25 .. at Fresno State; W, 45-28

MILESTONE

■ Despite winning a share of their 17th WAC title, the Cougars failed to play in a bowl last season for the first time in 18 years.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Reduce high number of penalties and turnovers.
- Resuscitate the non-existent running game.
- Stay healthy through stretch of 11 straight games.



FRESNO STATE

FACTS

COACH: Jim Sweeney, 19th year, 139-68-3; 196-147-4 overall
'95 RECORD: 5-7 (2-6 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Bulldog Stadium, Fresno, Calif. (41,031, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (7 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Charlie Jones, WR (1st-team All-WAC); Jahine Arnold, WR (2nd-team All-WAC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Richie Donati, Sr., 141-254-1,890 yards, 12 TDs, 11 INTs
RUSHING: Michael Pittman, Jr., 127 carries, 561 yards, 7 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Brian Roberson, Sr., 55, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Roberson, 758
TACKLES: Omar Stoutmire, Sr., 198 tackles
SACKS: Bryan Robinson, Sr., 4
INTERCEPTIONS: Stoutmire and Steve Wilson, Srs., and Marlyn Jackson, Jr., 2 each
PUNTING: Jeff Roberts, Soph., 38.5 avg.
KICKING: Johan Lyssand, Jr., 5-10 FGs (long 38), 33-35 PATs
SCORING: Lyssand, 48 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...OREGON
 Sept. 7 ...at Auburn
 Sept. 21 ...at Utah
 Sept. 28 ...HAWAII
 Oct. 12 ...SAN JOSE STATE
 Oct. 19 ...at Wyoming
 Oct. 26 ...at UNLV
 Nov. 2 ...BOISE STATE (HC)
 Nov. 9 ...COLORADO STATE
 Nov. 16 ...AIR FORCE
 Nov. 23 ...at San Diego State

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...NE LOUISIANA; W, 31-17
 Sept. 9 ...at California; W, 25-24
 Sept. 16 ...PACIFIC; W, 56-24
 Sept. 23 ...at Utah; L, 25-21
 Sept. 30 ...at UCLA; L, 45-21
 Oct. 7 ...NEW MEXICO; W, 51-34
 Oct. 14 ...at San Diego State; L, 48-24
 Oct. 28 ...AIR FORCE; L, 31-20
 Nov. 4 ...at Hawaii; L, 42-37
 Nov. 11 ...UTEP; W, 47-14
 Nov. 18 ...at Wyoming; L, 38-10
 Nov. 25 ...BYU; L, 45-28

MILESTONES

- Coach Jim Sweeney needs four wins to reach 200 in his career.
- Among active Division I-A coaches, Sweeney trails only Iowa's Hayden Fry (34) for longevity with 31 seasons.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Stop or at least slow down the run.
- Jim Arellanes has to emerge as a consistent passer.
- Bulldogs must get big plays from tailbacks.

By ANDY KATZ

They are meandering into a dangerous tenure. This thing called losing had been strictly a foreign concept for nearly a decade.

And now it has hit two seasons in a row. There is no other option but to save the program from becoming a secondary member of the Western Athletic Conference.

"We've had our confidence shattered," said Fresno State coach Jim Sweeney, who continues to challenge his stamina by weathering another operation. He broke a leg in a car accident in late March, yet continues coaching at age 66. "We've got to re-establish pride in the program."

This season is crucial to rebuilding that bridge. The Bulldogs play in what could be argued as the weaker of the two divisions in the expanded WAC. However, the first two games of the season—against Oregon and at Auburn—will test the Bulldogs' confidence. The defense is once again an unknown and the offense possesses skilled, potential All-WAC performers. Is it enough to challenge San Diego State for the Pacific Division title? Only if a lot of questions are answered.

OFFENSE: Jim Arellanes was supposed to be the No. 1 quarterback. He had the arm strength and the accuracy. What he didn't own was enough experience in the system and the assurance of a healthy season. A knee injury kept him out four games. He was replaced by Richie Donati, who threw for 1,890 yards and 12 TDs.

Michael Pittman started off exceptionally well, rushing for 181 yards in the opener against Northeast Louisiana but finished with 613 yards in 10 games. JUCO transfer Michael Gray needs to be the second—and possibly the first—option for the Bulldogs to continue building a potent offense. Gray followed in the footsteps of WAC leading rusher George Jones at Bakersfield (Calif.) Junior College.

Arellanes has one of the league's top deep threats in Brian Roberson, but depth at wide receiver depends on newcomers. The Bulldogs'



RICHIE DONATI-QB

offense ranked ninth nationally in passing (290.3 yards per game) and 10th in total yards (456.6 ypg.). Keeping that intact shouldn't be a problem for the offensive line. The bulk returns in Gary Osmundson, Chris Conrad and Allen Weathers.

"We've got to be more demanding of our players and not allow unacceptable performances," Sweeney said. "We just didn't play hard enough last season."

DEFENSE: The Bulldogs were bullied throughout the season, especially against the run. And the first to feel the consequences was Leon Burnett, who was dumped as defensive coordinator. Robin Ross took his place and will institute more multiple fronts out of a base 4-3 set.

Omar Stoutmire, who switches back to strong safety from free safety, led the team and the WAC in tackles. Bad sign. The Bulldogs couldn't stop the football up front, and it's basically up to the same individuals. Seniors Bryan Robinson and Lumumba Neal anchor the line again. Help should come from Malama Scanlan and Ryan Negrete. Chris Love and Ryan Holmes provide help at linebacker. Stoutmire will be joined by Cory Hall, Steve Wilson and Marlyn Jackson in the secondary.

"We've got to be improved defensively for us to be a contender," Sweeney said. The Bulldogs defense ended the season ranked 100th in the nation, yielding 466.6 yards a game.

SPECIAL TEAMS: The Bulldogs were ninth in the conference in punting, but Jeff Roberts should improve. The kicking game should be solid with Johan Lyssand and Armen Torigian both back.

RECRUITING: JUCO transfers Gray, Negrete, Nicholas, cornerback Sam Wilson, offensive lineman Chris Lee and receivers Randi Bishop and Greg Minnatee should have an immediate impact. Transfer quarterback Robb Wetta (Idaho State) figures in the future plans.

Andy Katz covers Fresno State for the Fresno Bee.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Jim Arellanes (Sr., 6-4, 210) Richie Donati (Sr., 6-3, 200)*
RB: Michael Pittman (Jr., 6-0, 205)* Michael Gray (Jr., 6-1, 225)
RB: Robert Jenkins (Jr., 5-10, 235) Jaime Kimbrough (So., 5-9, 180)
WR: Anthony Tucker (So., 6-1, 175) Randi Bishop (Jr., 5-10, 175)
WR: Brian Roberson (Sr., 5-10, 170)* D. Walthers (Sr., 6-2, 200)
TE: Warren Fortier (Jr., 6-2, 240)* O'Shea Nero (Sr., 6-4, 240)
LT: Chris Conrad (Jr., 6-7, 290)* Curtis Jones (Jr., 6-7, 300)
LG: Michael Carr (Jr., 6-3, 275)* Ken Foersch (So., 6-3, 285)
C: Gary Osmundson (Sr., 6-3, 280)* Steve Zirnite (Fr., 6-3, 265)
RG: Chris Lee (Jr., 6-3, 280) Scott Mueller (Sr., 6-4, 275)
RT: Allen Weathers (Sr., 6-4, 310) Todd Koenig (Sr., 6-7, 265)

DEFENSE

DE: Malama Scanlan (Sr., 6-2, 250) Ryan Negrete (Jr., 6-4, 250)
DT: Bryan Robinson (Sr., 6-5, 275)* Jerry Lemon (So., 6-2, 275)
DT: Lumumba Neal (Sr., 6-3, 275)* Lee Pakola (Sr., 6-2, 270)
DE: Leroy Colbert (Sr., 6-3, 245) Danny Williams (Sr., 6-4, 270)
LB: Kevin Adams (So., 6-3, 220) Bobby Brooks (Jr., 6-2, 210)
LB: Ryan Holmes (Jr., 6-3, 235)* Allan Nichols (Jr., 6-2, 225)
LB: Chris Love (Jr., 6-1, 215)* A.J. Gass (Jr., 6-3, 200)
CB: Steve Wilson (Sr., 5-10, 175)* Antonio Pratt (Jr., 5-9, 160)
CB: Marlyn Jackson (Jr., 5-10, 165)* Woody Green (Jr., 5-11, 195)*
SS: Omar Stoutmire (Sr., 5-11, 195)* Bernard Finley (Jr., 5-9, 170)
FS: Cory Hall (So., 6-0, 190) Rio Wells (Sr., 5-9, 170)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Johan Lyssand (Jr., 5-7, 150)* Armen Torigian (Sr., 5-8, 180)
P: Jeff Roberts (So., 6-4, 215) Rodney Hill (Jr., 5-11, 215)
 (* denotes returning starter)

HAWAII



GLENN FREITAS-QB

By ADRIAN WOJNAROWSKI

Fred vonAppen has waited a coaching lifetime for this opportunity, working his way through assistantships and coordinator positions in the college and professional game. Eventually, the time comes for all of the disciples of Bill Walsh. Maybe vonAppen just had to wait the longest.

Nevertheless, he gets his chance with Hawaii. A curious coach, as unique as the profession has produced, vonAppen, late of the Colorado Buffaloes, is a man as comfortable with the poetry of Sylvia Plathe as a playbook. His mandate is clear: Turn the Rainbows into a winner again. Fill an empty stadium. Keep the high school stars from departing for the mainland.

"We want to do a better job of keeping ours at home," vonAppen said. "It's going to be difficult until we upgrade facilities and have something athletically appealing to the local kid. This isn't as easy of a recruiting venue as some might think. Everyone wants to visit, but they don't all want to come here."

OFFENSE: VonAppen has a terrific quandary as he tries to bring his West Coast offense to the Rainbows. Clearly, they do not have the personnel to be successful with the complicated schemes. Yet, vonAppen wants to establish his system immediately. So he forces his players, fresh out of a spread option offense, to learn it?

"The experience of our coaches isn't throwing the ball backwards," vonAppen said. "A heavy option orientation isn't our bag. We're also caught in a situation where there are 22 athletes who were recruited to play offense in that style."

Before fall preseason practice is over, the Rainbows could meet Boston College in the season-opener with a true freshman as quarterback. Josh Skinner, a recruit out of Colorado, could be the choice. Talent is scarce on offense, though. There are some possibilities at receiver with Dillan

Micus (31 recs., 536 yards), Gerald Lacey (10 recs.) and Jason Mane (nine recs.). And Hauoli Wong (6-foot-6, 387 pounds) is one lineman the Rainbows count on.

DEFENSE: Trouble looms on defense, too. Hawaii was terrible against the run a season ago—one of the nation's 10 worst—and six times allowed 37 or more points to be scored.

VonAppen is so troubled with the defensive front and its inability to stop runners, he made one of his first recruiting trips a visit to the offensive line and moved a few players across the ball.

The linebacking is expected to be solid again. Peter Salavea (38 tackles) will be burdened with a leadership role and junior college transfer Andre Garcia, a 6-foot-3, 240-pound outside linebacker, could be one of few newcomers able to make a difference.

SPECIAL TEAMS: The Rainbows will dearly miss Hula Bowl selection Matthew Harding, who set a school record for kickoff return yardage with 1,969 yards. Yet all is not lost. Kicker Carlton Oswald returns after making 7 of 9 field goals a season ago, which made him the most accurate in the conference. Punter Chad Shrout is back with his long-snapper Tyler Tanigawa.

RECRUITING: VonAppen signed 13 players out of California. This, vonAppen promises, will be a trend. His coaching staff has deep California roots and will be spending a lot of time there trying to regenerate the program.

"California is a state with kids cosmopolitan enough as to where they're willing to go all over the place," he said. "It will be a tremendous natural resource to us."

Even with the lateness of vonAppen's start as coach, nabbing Skinner could be a steal. VonAppen developed a relationship with him as a Colorado assistant coach and convinced Skinner to follow him to Hawaii.

Adrian Wojnarowski is a columnist for the Fresno Bee.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Johnny Macon (Sr., 5-10, 182)*	Glenn Freitas (Sr., 6-1, 190)*
RB: Tony Thomas (Sr., 5-10, 196)	Randall Okimoto (Sr., 5-6, 175)
RB: Paul Purdy (Sr., 5-11, 214)	B. Agbayani (So., 5-10, 222)
WR: Dillan Micus (So., 5-10, 179)*	Jason Mane (Jr., 5-10, 172)
WR: Gerald Lacey (Sr., 6-0, 182)*	Ricky Daley (Jr., 6-0, 189)
TE: Ryan Green (Sr., 6-3, 226)	Zeff Ah Quinn (Jr., 6-3, 235)
LT: Mike Petersen (Sr., 6-4, 288)*	Kaulana Noa (Fr., 6-6, 299)
LG: Conrad Paulo (Jr., 6-1, 287)*	Bobby Singh (So., 6-2, 307)
C: Shane Oliveira (Jr., 6-2, 273)*	Ben Josefa (Jr., 6-0, 290)
RG: C.B. Wentling (Sr., 6-2, 264)	Gary Krug (So., 6-2, 288)
RT: Hauoli Wong (So., 6-6, 307)*	Iosefa Pua'auli (Fr., 6-3, 290)

DEFENSE

DE: Morrie Roe (Jr., 6-1, 283)	Sam Collins (Jr., 6-1, 251)
DT: Ben Bright (So., 6-2, 259)*	Bob Pigott (Jr., 6-2, 260)
DT: Kone Salavea (Sr., 6-1, 240)	Tony Tuoti (Jr., 5-11, 274)
DE: Brian Chapman (Jr., 6-2, 266)*	Ellie Kapihe (Jr., 6-3, 260)
LB: Punahou Aina (Jr., 5-11, 220)*	K. Cobb-Adams (So., 6-1, 210)
LB: Peter Salavea (So., 5-11, 233)*	S. Gonzales (Jr., 6-1, 220)
LB: Andre Garcia (Jr., 6-3, 240)	Rufus Ayeni (Jr., 6-3, 215)
CB: Doe Henderson (Sr., 5-9, 182)*	Eddie Klaneski (Jr., 5-10, 176)
CB: Al Hunter (Jr., 5-9, 173)*	Robbie Robinson (Jr., 5-10, 163)
SS: Gery Graham (Jr., 6-2, 202)	Chris Shinnick (Jr., 5-11, 198)
FS: Colnell Bobbitt (Jr., 5-10, 165)	Tad Yamashita (Jr., 5-7, 174)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Carlton Oswald (Sr., 5-10, 183)*	A. Champathong (Sr., 5-5, 164)
P: Chad Shrout (So., 6-1, 254)*	B. Agbayani (So., 5-10, 222)

(* denotes returning starter)



FACTS

COACH: Fred vonAppen, 1st year

'95 RECORD: 4-8 (2-4 conf.)

HOME STADIUM: Aloha Stadium, Honolulu, Hawaii (50,000, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (8 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: George Noga, LB (2nd-team All-WAC); Tupu Alualu, RB (Hon. mention All-WAC); Rod York, DL (Hon. mention All-WAC); Agenhart Ellis, DL (Hon. mention All-WAC); Danny Katoa, DL (Hon. mention All-WAC); Clint Kuboyama, DB (Hon. mention All-WAC); Matthew Harding, RS (Hon. mention All-WAC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Johnny Macon, Jr., 68-152-985 yards, 6 TDs, 2 INTs

RUSHING: Macon, 107 carries, 378 yards, 6 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Eddie Klaneski, Jr., 36, 1 TD

RECEIVING (YARDS): Dillan Micus, Soph., 536 yards

TACKLES: Punahou Aina, Jr., 87

SACKS: Aina and Brian Chapman, Jr., 2 each

INTERCEPTIONS: Six tied with one each

PUNTING: Chad Shrout, Soph., 38.6 avg.

KICKING: Carlton Oswald, Sr., 7-9 FGs (long 37),

34-35 PATs

SCORING: Glenn Freitas, Sr., 72 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 . . . BOSTON COLLEGE

Sept. 7 . . . OHIO UNIVERSITY

Sept. 14 . . . at Wyoming

Sept. 21 . . . BOISE STATE

Sept. 28 . . . at Fresno State

Oct. 5 . . . COLORADO STATE

Oct. 12 . . . at San Diego State

Oct. 19 . . . UNLV

Oct. 26 . . . at Air Force

Nov. 9 . . . SAN JOSE STATE (HC)

Nov. 16 . . . BYU

Nov. 30 . . . WISCONSIN

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . . TEXAS; L, 38-17

Sept. 16 . . . at Wyoming; L, 52-6

Sept. 23 . . . UTEP; W, 42-21

Sept. 30 . . . at UNLV; W, 58-30

Oct. 14 . . . at New Mexico; L, 24-10

Oct. 21 . . . CENTRAL FLORIDA; W, 45-14

Oct. 28 . . . at BYU; L, 45-7

Nov. 4 . . . FRESNO STATE; W, 42-37

Nov. 11 . . . at Colorado State; L, 22-0

Nov. 18 . . . SAN DIEGO STATE; L, 49-10

Nov. 25 . . . AIR FORCE; L, 45-28

Dec. 2 . . . OKLAHOMA STATE; L, 24-20

MILESTONE

■ Fred vonAppen becomes the 20th coach to guide the program at Hawaii. As an assistant coach, vonAppen has won two Super Bowl rings as an assistant to Bill Walsh with the 49ers and has coached in six bowl games, winning four times.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- The Hawaii athletic director wants fans back. Even in transition, the Rainbows must be exciting.
- Establish new four-man front on defense and improve run defense.
- Find a young quarterback—probably Josh Skinner—who can develop in West Coast offense.



NEW MEXICO

FACTS

COACH: Dennis Franchione, 5th year, 18-26; 98-46-2 overall
'95 RECORD: 4-7 (2-6 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: University Stadium, Albuquerque, N.M. (31,218, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 15 (7 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Winslow Oliver, RB (1st-team All-WAC); Steve Pagador, WR (Hon. mention All-WAC); Chris Griffin, TE (Hon. mention All-WAC); Roston Thomas, LB (Hon. mention All-WAC); Art Celestine, DB (Hon. mention All-WAC); Steve Malonson, DT

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Donald Sellers, Sr., 121-195-1,693 yards, 11 TDs, 3 INTs
RUSHING: Sellers, 134 carries, 494 yards, 8 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Jeremy Banks, Sr., 19, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Banks, 290
TACKLES: Daniel Johnson, Sr., 120
SACKS: Buddy Billingsley, Sr., and Antoine Wright, Soph., 4 each
INTERCEPTIONS: Johnson, 3
PUNTING: Jason Bloom, Soph., 42.8 avg.
KICKING: Colby Cason, Jr., 11-18 FGs (long 37), 25-28 PATs
SCORING: Cason, 58 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29 ... at New Mexico State
 Sept. 7 ... **NORTHERN ARIZONA**
 Sept. 14 ... **CENTRAL FLORIDA**
 Sept. 21 ... at **BYU**
 Sept. 28 ... **TEXAS CHRISTIAN (HC)**
 Oct. 5 ... at Rice
 Oct. 19 ... **SAN DIEGO STATE**
 Oct. 26 ... at **SMU**
 Nov. 2 ... at **Tulsa**
 Nov. 9 ... **UTAH**
 Nov. 23 ... **UTEP**

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ... **N. ARIZONA**; W, 45-21
 Sept. 16 ... **UTAH**; L, 36-9
 Sept. 23 ... **NEW MEXICO STATE**; W, 36-24
 Sept. 30 ... **AIR FORCE**; L, 27-24
 Oct. 7 ... at **Fresno State**; L, 51-34
 Oct. 14 ... **HAWAII**; W, 24-10
 Oct. 21 ... at **Colorado State**; W, 22-14
 Oct. 28 ... **TEXAS TECH**; L, 34-7
 Nov. 4 ... at **San Diego State**; L, 38-29
 Nov. 11 ... **BYU**; L, 31-14
 Nov. 18 ... at **UTEP**; L, 17-12

MILESTONE

■ Fullback Chris Shelton has been thrown for a loss only once in his two seasons as a starter.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a replacement for Winslow Oliver at tailback.
- Someone must emerge as a reliable tight end.
- Correct the defense's vulnerability to the big pass play.

By ANDY KATZ

The feeling has always been fleeting at New Mexico. The goodness wears off quickly, almost without warning. And the Lobos are usually faced with yet another impossible misfortune—trying to restore the confidence needed to make a significant move out of the bottom tier in the Western Athletic Conference.

And while the wins have been slow to come, the idea of New Mexico not being a viable competitor is now moot. Last season, the Lobos beat Colorado State on the road, putting them at 4-3 for the first time in years. The emotional lift was lost when New Mexico had to play bowl-bound Texas Tech, surging San Diego State and BYU. All three were losses. The misery became complete by losing at last-place Texas-El Paso.

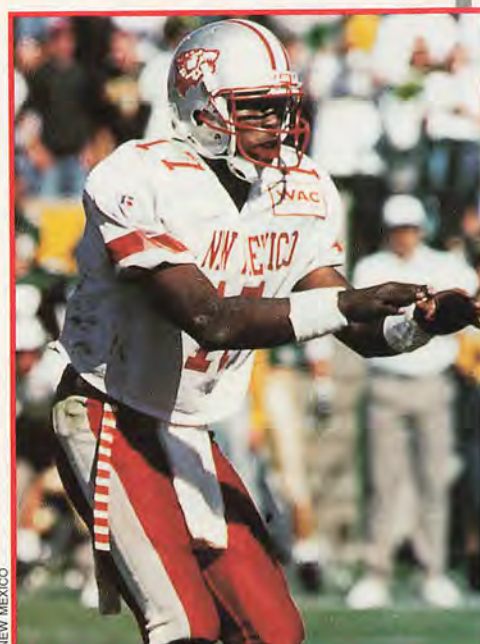
"What this program needs is consistency, and that's what we're trying to do in recruiting, too," said New Mexico fifth-year head coach Dennis Franchione. "We're getting our numbers up to where we need them to be in terms of scholarships. Now we need to continue to improve by getting more athletes."

The facilities shouldn't be a negative in recruiting anymore with a state-of-the-art weight room and overall football training facility in place. The problem the Lobos will always face is the lack of an in-state recruiting base. The issue now is to win. Unfortunately for the Lobos, they are in the stronger of the WAC's two divisions, having to play Utah, BYU and TCU.

OFFENSE: Donald Sellers took only 75 percent of the snaps last season because of injuries but was responsible for 82 percent of the Lobos' scoring. He set school records in completion percentage (62 percent) and pass efficiency (150.5 rating).

"He's got a lot of things going for him," Franchione said. "His junior year was solid, and that was with no experience."

Finding a tailback to replace Winslow Oliver could be a problem. Chris Shelton is a sturdy full-



DONALD SELLERS-QB

back and will get the bulk of the work, but sophomores Che' Johnson and Lennox Gordon need to step in and give the Lobos quickness at tailback. They should have some large gaps to run through with an offensive line that returns all five starters, led by senior Brandon Turner at center.

DEFENSE: New Mexico's pass defense was 10th in the WAC and 107th nationally, giving up 242.2 yards a game. The Lobos were a bit better against the run, sixth in the WAC and 76th in the nation, allowing 167.7 yards a game. A change had to be made and the Lobos went with a new look, naming Gary Patterson as the new defensive coordinator.

Patterson's new alignment calls for four down linemen, two inside linebackers and five defensive backs. The personnel is largely the same, albeit still youthful and unproven. Injured Buddy Billingsley needs help from Chris Carroll, Bill Borchers and Barrett Garrison on the defensive line. The Lobos' misfortunes were dealt a cruel blow when junior tackle Steve Malonson suffered a stroke during the winter, leaving him with some paralysis. He won't play football again after a season in which he had 73 tackles.

Blake Irwin and Daniel Johnson give the Lobos some experience at linebacker after starting the past two seasons. The secondary will be keyed by Scott McGarrahan, Billy Austin, Chili Davis, Jameal Woods and Antoine Wright.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Oliver was the Lobos' best returner and will be sorely missed. The kicking game remains intact with Colby Cason and Jason Bloom returning to handle the kicking and punting, respectively.

RECRUITING: The Lobos added 10 transfers and 14 high school seniors. Defensive lineman Joe Haynes will have the most impact and could challenge for a starting spot. Tight ends Tony Doran and Jonathan Burrough should compete for snaps, too.

Andy Katz covers WAC football for the Fresno Bee.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Donald Sellers (Sr., 6-1, 180)*
RB: Che' Johnson (So., 6-0, 201)
RB: Chris Shelton (Jr., 5-10, 230)*
WR: Larry Brown (Sr., 5-8, 161)
WR: Pascal Voz (Jr., 6-0, 185)
TE: Tommy Hemphill (So., 6-5, 213)
LT: Matt Tyner (Jr., 6-3, 291)*
LG: Andy Gleason (Sr., 6-5, 292)*
C: Brandon Turner (Sr., 6-3, 283)*
RG: Kevin Ned (Sr., 6-3, 342)*
RT: Shane Jaeger (Jr., 6-2, 272)*

DEFENSE

DE: Buddy Billingsley (Sr., 6-3, 224)*
DT: Barrett Garrison (So., 6-3, 255)
DT: Bill Borchers (So., 6-2, 242)
DE: Chris Carroll (Sr., 6-0, 230)
LB: Daniel Johnson (Sr., 5-11, 225)*
LB: Blake Irwin (Jr., 6-0, 219)*
CB: Jameal Woods (Jr., 6-1, 178)
CB: Chili Davis (Sr., 5-9, 165)*
SS: Antoine Wright (So., 6-0, 220)
WS: S. McGarrahan (So., 6-1, 198)*
FS: Billy Austin (Jr., 5-10, 187)*

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Colby Cason (Jr., 5-10, 197)*
P: Jason Bloom (So., 6-5, 190)*
Mike Ross (So., 6-0, 193)
Danny Gonzalez (So., 5-9, 179)
 (* denotes returning starter)

SAN DIEGO STATE



GEORGE JONES-RB

SAN DIEGO STATE

By ADRIAN WOJNAROWSKI

Ted Tollner wanted so badly for his players to remember the hurt of losing its last game at Jack Murphy Stadium last season. San Diego State moved into the final week with a chance for a share of the WAC championship. A victory on its own field over Colorado State would have secured it.

Four teams finished with a part of it, but not the Aztecs, who lost, 24-13. And yet it appears the Aztecs have swiftly moved into the elite of the conference under third-year coach Tollner. Without a winning season since 1991, the Aztecs had eight victories a year ago, and there could be considerably more success this year.

"Our young guys had a chance to be in the hunt. They experienced the agony of losing the final game, a chance to go to the Holiday Bowl, and that ought to make us better the second time around," Tollner said. "Are we up to the task of improving? We must if we're going to win a championship."

OFFENSE: There isn't a defense in the WAC capable of containing the Aztecs, who finished last season ranked seventh nationally in total offense (482.1 yards per game). Everything starts with gloriously gifted senior running back George Jones, who was virtually unstoppable in earning second-team All-America honors last season.

He was the nation's third-leading rusher with 153.5 yards per game and 23 touchdowns, crushing Marshall Faulk's single-season rushing record of 1,630 yards. And Jones, who ran for 1,842 yards, played the final three games with a broken jaw. This year, he has plans on joining the 2,000-yard club.

"I don't know if he can accomplish more statistically than he did a year ago," Tollner said. "He's our foundation."

With an offense line averaging nearly 300 pounds a player, Jones is a legitimate candidate for the Heisman Trophy. What makes the Aztecs even

more dangerous is one of the nation's best receiving tandems: Juniors Will Blackwell and Az Hakim. Blackwell tied a 21-year-old school record with 86 catches for 1,207 yards and eight touchdowns. Hakim caught 57 passes for nearly 18 yards a play.

While Jones and Blackwell get much of the spotlight, the consistency of senior quarterback Billy Blanton, who passed for 23 touchdowns, could be the difference for San Diego State.

DEFENSE: The return of former Aztec head coach Claude Gilbert as defensive coordinator could make San Diego State a legitimate Top 25 team.

Most of the concern lies across the front line, where senior end Adrian Ioja will be asked to carry the load. Several redshirt freshmen will get a chance to play, and Tollner is intrigued by 1995 JUCO All-America transfer Cameron Chance.

The core of the defense will be the linebackers, where second-team All-WAC senior Craigus Thompson had a team-leading 99 tackles and three interceptions a year ago. While a young secondary sometimes struggled, it led the nation with 23 interceptions. Senior cornerback Ricky Parker, who had six of them, could be one of America's best.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Again, the Aztecs have one of the West's most able punters, senior Noel Prefontaine. He averaged 43.0 yards per kick, the second-best average ever at San Diego State behind current Minnesota Viking Mike Saxon.

However, consistency was a problem with kicker Peter Holt. He missed seven of his 47 extra points, and the arrival of freshman Nate Tandberg, an all-state product from Rancho Bernardo (Calif.) High, could mean trouble for Holt.

RECRUITING: There was uncertainty surrounding recruiting until near the end of the spring signing period, when local star running back Marty Graham committed to the program. He is expected to redshirt behind Jones and eventually be the cornerstone of the offense.

Adrian Wojnarowski is a columnist for the Fresno Bee.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE			
QB: Billy Blanton (Sr., 6-0, 190)*	Kevin McKechnie (Jr., 6-2, 195)		
RB: George Jones (Sr., 5-9, 210)*	Justin Watson (Jr., 6-1, 225)		
HB: O. Ayanbadejo (Sr., 6-2, 230)	Mike Hatch (Jr., 6-3, 220)		
WR: Will Blackwell (Jr., 6-0, 180)*	Leon Hawes (Fr., 6-0, 180)		
WR: Az Hakim (Jr., 5-10, 175)*	Nathan Jacquet (Sr., 6-1, 175)		
TE: Chad Flick (Jr., 6-6, 255)	Ben Mechem (So., 6-4, 245)		
LT: Ephraim Salaam (Jr., 6-7, 290)*	Greg Spillane (Fr., 6-4, 270)		
LG: Robert Whitman (Jr., 6-3, 305)*	Josh Rogers (Fr., 6-2, 285)		
C: Dan Nilsen (Jr., 6-4, 290)*	B. Van Raaphorst (So., 6-4, 275)		
RG: Mike Malano (Fr., 6-2, 290)	Andrew Kline (Fr., 6-2, 285)		
RT: Kyle Turley (Jr., 6-6, 305)*	Hasira Sutton (Fr., 6-5, 265)		

DEFENSE			
DE: Adrian Ioja (Sr., 6-3, 255)*	K. Gbajabiamila (Fr., 6-4, 225)		
DT: Nio Santos (Jr., 6-2, 260)	Cameron Chance (Jr., 6-1, 270)		
DT: Dan Dorsey (Jr., 6-0, 300)	Jeff Sardell (Sr., 6-2, 260)		
DE: Jason Jones (Sr., 6-4, 225)	Charles Gatlin (Jr., 6-4, 250)		
LB: Sam Lawanson (Sr., 6-0, 230)*	Joe Jackson (So., 6-3, 225)		
LB: Joe Tuipala (So., 6-1, 235)*	Michael Duran (Fr., 6-1, 230)		
LB: Craigus Thompson (Sr., 6-1, 230)*	Tim Sulick (Jr., 6-1, 220)		
CB: Eric Lewis (So., 5-7, 155)*	James Heggins (Jr., 5-8, 170)		
CB: Ricky Parker (Sr., 6-1, 205)*	Lonny Bergeron (Fr., 5-10, 175)		
SS: J. McChristian (Jr., 5-10, 195)*	Rico Curtis (Fr., 6-0, 205)		
FS: Jason Moore (Jr., 5-10, 180)*	Freddie Edwards (Sr., 6-0, 195)		

SPECIAL TEAMS			
K: Peter Holt (Sr., 5-10, 170)*	Nate Tandberg (Fr., 5-9, 160)		
P: Noel Prefontaine (Sr., 6-0, 200)*	Peter Holt (Sr., 5-10, 170)		

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Ted Tollner, 3rd year, 12-11; 38-31-1 overall
'95 RECORD: 8-4 (5-3 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego, Calif. (61,121, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 18 (8 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Chris Finch, OL (1st-team All-WAC); Avo Avetisyan, DL (1st-team All-WAC); La'Roi Glover, DL (1st-team All-WAC)

LEADING RETURNER STATISTICS

PASSING: Billy Blanton, Sr., 243-389-3,300 yards, 23 TDs, 14 INTs
RUSHING: George Jones, Sr., 305 carries, 1,842 yards, 23 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Will Blackwell, Jr., 86, 8 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Blackwell, 1,207
TACKLES: Craigus Thompson, Sr., and Jason Moore, Jr., 99 each
SACKS: Adrian Ioja, Sr., 6
INTERCEPTIONS: Ricky Parker, Sr., 6
PUNTING: Noel Prefontaine, Sr., 43.0 avg.
KICKING: Peter Holt, Sr., 11-16 FGs (long 42), 40-47 PATs
SCORING: Jones, 138 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 . . . IDAHO
 Sept. 14 . . . at California
 Sept. 21 . . . OKLAHOMA
 Oct. 5 . . . AIR FORCE
 Oct. 12 . . . HAWAII (HC)
 Oct. 19 . . . at New Mexico
 Oct. 26 . . . at Colorado State
 Nov. 2 . . . at San Jose State
 Nov. 9 . . . WYOMING
 Nov. 16 . . . at UNLV
 Nov. 23 . . . FRESNO STATE

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . . CALIFORNIA; W, 33-9
 Sept. 9 . . . at Oklahoma; L, 38-22
 Sept. 16 . . . at BYU; L, 31-19
 Sept. 28 . . . NEVADA; W, 30-27
 Oct. 7 . . . at Utah; W, 24-21
 Oct. 14 . . . FRESNO STATE; W, 48-24
 Oct. 21 . . . SAN JOSE STATE; W, 49-20
 Oct. 28 . . . at UTEP; W, 45-16
 Nov. 4 . . . NEW MEXICO; W, 38-29
 Nov. 11 . . . WYOMING; L, 34-31
 Nov. 18 . . . at Hawaii; W, 49-10
 Nov. 25 . . . COLORADO STATE; L, 24-13

MILESTONE

■ After just one season, senior George Jones ranks eighth on SDSU's all-time rushing list with 1,842 yards.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

■ Billy Blanton must become a big-play quarterback.
 ■ Young players must emerge on defensive line.
 ■ Kicking has to become more consistent.

WAC PACIFIC



SAN JOSE STATE

FACTS

COACH: John Ralston, 4th year, 8-25; 94-72-4 overall
'95 RECORD: 3-8 (2-4 Big West)
HOME STADIUM: Spartan Stadium, San Jose, Calif. (31,218, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 11 (4 off, 5 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Brian Roche, TE (2nd-team All America); Brian Lundy, WR (2nd-team All-Big West); Chris Hill, OL (2nd-team All-Big West); Beto Lomax, DB (2nd-team All-Big West)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Carl Dean, Sr., 182-302-2,214 yards, 14 TDs, 10 INTs
RUSHING: Patrick Walsh, Sr., 104 carries, 467 yards, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Windrell Hayes, Soph., 39, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Hayes, 535
TACKLES: Jacob Malae, Sr., 100
SACKS: Eric Quarles, Sr., 2
INTERCEPTIONS: Jarrett Robinson, Sr., 3
PUNTING: Joe Furlow, Sr., 38.0 avg.
KICKING: Furlow, 10-13 FGs (long 50), 29-31 PATs
SCORING: Furlow, 59 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ... at Air Force
 Sept. 7 ... CALIFORNIA
 Sept. 14 ... at Stanford
 Sept. 21 ... UTEP
 Sept. 28 ... at Washington State
 Oct. 5 ... WYOMING
 Oct. 12 ... at Fresno State
 Oct. 19 ... at Colorado State
 Nov. 2 ... SAN DIEGO STATE (HC)
 Nov. 9 ... at Hawaii
 Nov. 16 ... at Washington
 Nov. 23 ... UNLV

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ... STANFORD; L, 47-33
 Sept. 9 ... at USC; L, 45-7
 Sept. 16 ... N. ILLINOIS; L, 18-17
 Sept. 23 ... at California; L, 40-7
 Sept. 30 ... UTAH STATE; W, 32-30
 Oct. 14 ... UNLV; W, 52-14
 Oct. 21 ... at San Diego State; L, 49-20
 Oct. 28 ... PACIFIC; L, 32-30
 Nov. 4 ... at Arkansas State; L, 21-7
 Nov. 11 ... at New Mexico State; W, 38-37
 Nov. 18 ... at Nevada; L, 45-28

MILESTONE

■ Current or one-time NFL head coaches Bill Walsh, Dick Vermeil, Jim Mora, Mike White and Rod Rust all worked as assistant coaches to John Ralston, San Jose State's current head coach.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- In the pass-happy WAC, the secondary must evolve quickly.
- Fill the loss of tight end Brian Roche.
- Gain fan interest in pro-heavy Bay Area.

By ADRIAN WOJNAROWSKI

Victories have been missing over John Ralston's three years as San Jose State's coach, and with a move from the Big West to the Western Athletic Conference beckoning, maybe it could have been easy to justify the firing of a 68-year-old coach.

Yet, school administrators understood Ralston redshirted two classes of recruits to prepare for this move into the WAC and, most of all, turned a dismal graduation rate into a commendable one. He had been unselfish for the program and officials responded with a two-year contract extension.

Ralston may never get a chance to bring a winning season to San Jose State, though. It will take years—especially if the out-of-conference schedule continues to include several Pac-10 teams. Ralston understands. He is willing to bring the Spartans as far as he can until it is time to hand over the program to someone else.

"We've played a WAC team in each of the past three years, and by the lickings we took it's obvious we are taking a major step now," he said. "The wins and losses have been a disaster over the past three years. Now, we have a brand-new practice facility and we plan to expand to our stadium. These things will help us to compete."

OFFENSE: Senior quarterback Carl Dean (60 percent passing, 2,214 yards, 14 touchdowns) will count on his receivers, sophomore Windrell Hayes (535 yards, five TDs) and senior David Doyle, to generate much of San Jose State's offense. Hayes caught 39 passes a season ago, and Doyle, coming off an injury redshirt season, was a starter in 1994. The graduation of second-team All-America tight end Brian Roche, however, is devastating.

Sophomore Carlos Meeks has a chance to emerge as the Spartans' feature back, but there is a long list of young players with a chance to contribute. On the line, San Jose State is excited about senior transfer Matt Roe (6-foot-5, 280



CARL DEAN-QB

pounds) from San Diego State.

DEFENSE: The demise of the University of the Pacific football program turned into the Spartans' gain. Three transfers are eligible to play immediately and are expected to step into the starting lineup. Senior Sean Duncan and junior Shon Kendall move up to the line, which will be San Jose State's best in several seasons.

Virtually the entire secondary returns, but considering its struggles a season ago, this isn't necessarily an advantage. Opponents passed for 285 yards per game, and although San Jose State has speed in the defensive backfield, it must develop a better sense of the game. Pacific transfer Zach Michalski will add depth to the linebacking corp.

"It was our Achilles' heel," Ralston said. "We need some people to develop some confidence."

SPECIAL TEAMS: San Jose State could have the best kicker in the conference with senior Joe Furlow. He made 10 of 13 field goals, including 3-for-4 beyond 40 yards. He may even be asked to take over the punting chores should Jason Chapple fail to improve on his 36.9-yard average from a season ago.

Ralston has improved the team speed in recruiting, and it could help the kickoff return teams. The Spartans haven't had big-play capability over the past few seasons.

RECRUITING: San Jose State's move to the WAC has allowed it into the living rooms of California prospects who once wouldn't have considered the Spartans when the team was in the Big West.

Three transfers from the disbanded Pacific program will impact the Spartans immediately, as could a host of junior college transfers. Two freshmen, receiver La Tef Grim and linebacker Josh Parry, could see time as first-year players.

Adrian Wojnarowski is a columnist for the Fresno Bee.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Carl Dean (Sr., 6-1, 202)* Dan O'Dell (Jr., 6-1, 199)
RB: James Hodgins (So., 6-0, 229) Billy Vuniwai (Jr., 5-10, 200)
RB: Patrick Walsh (Sr., 5-6, 185)* Carlos Meeks (So., 5-10, 188)
WR: W. Hayes (So., 5-11, 198)* Carlos Bryant (So., 5-7, 162)
WR: David Doyle (Sr., 5-10, 182) Rommel Canon (Jr., 5-10, 168)
TE: Michael Hamilton (Sr., 5-11, 245) Brandon Knapp (So., 6-1, 226)
LT: Matt Roe (Sr., 6-5, 280) Greg Smart (Jr., 6-4, 324)
LG: Oscar Garza (Jr., 6-0, 272) Nurjan Ciftakara (Sr., 6-0, 315)
C: Harry Daniels (So., 6-1, 290)* Mark Roe (Sr., 6-5, 275)
RG: David Laverne (So., 6-2, 283) Curtice Macfarlane (Jr., 6-4, 274)
RT: Kurt Strauss (So., 6-6, 284) Cory Jones (Jr., 6-2, 268)

DEFENSE

DT: Sean Duncan (Sr., 6-3, 256) Jerald Perry (Jr., 6-2, 274)*
NG: Tony Gratton (Sr., 6-1, 255) Jason Mitchell (Fr., 6-3, 255)
DT: Shon Kendall (Jr., 6-3, 252) Gavin Simmons (So., 6-2, 272)
LB: Eric Coughran (Jr., 6-0, 228) Sam Sherrad (So., 6-3, 212)
LB: Jacob Malae (Sr., 5-10, 208)* Robert Webb (Sr., 6-2, 239)
LB: Sam Kupau (Jr., 5-11, 216) Trevis Wooden (Jr., 6-0, 225)
LB: Eric Quarles (Sr., 6-1, 225)* James Ditch (Fr., 6-3, 224)
CB: Omarr Smith (So., 5-9, 165) W. Crutchfield (Jr., 5-8, 196)
CB: Eric Polk (Jr., 5-10, 172)* Pat Bush (Sr., 5-10, 198)
SS: Floyd Johnson (So., 5-11, 192)* Robert Jones (Sr., 6-0, 195)
FS: Jarrett Robinson (Sr., 5-9, 190) Maurice Simpson (Sr., 5-8, 190)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Joe Furlow (Sr., 5-11, 179)* Chris Prater (Sr., 5-10, 189)
P: Joe Furlow (Sr., 5-11, 179) Jason Chapple (So., 6-1, 180)*
 (* denotes returning starter)



TONY BURTON-WR/RB

STEVE SPANFORD/UNLV

By ANDY KATZ

Coach Jeff Horton was searching for an example and the natural was Northwestern. The Wildcats have become the hope for a number of programs trying to overcome the enormous odds of success at major Division I-A college football.

"People laughed at Northwestern and in two years look where they are now," Horton said of the Wildcats' trip to the Rose Bowl last January. "We know what we're trying to do. We've got the commitment to make it work."

Patience will have to be the word of the day—make that everyday—this fall. UNLV might have won the Big West two seasons ago, but how the Rebels have stumbled since then. Their last season in the Big West was humiliating, with their nine losses coming by an average score of 53-18. Is this program ready for a move to the WAC?

OFFENSE: The Rebels should at least give their offense some time to develop with the return of three starters on the offensive line, led by left tackle Dennis Whitmore. Horton would like the Rebels to average around 220 yards a game on the ground, up from last year's 184.8.

Running back DeJohn Branch rushed for only 65 yards in four games last season but will be counted on heavily to lead the Rebels' ground game. Tony Burton is a double threat as a runner and receiver. Kevin Crook and Jon Denton are both underclassmen but will compete at quarterback. Both have WAC size and should be legitimate quarterbacks in the league.

Either quarterback has deep threats in sophomores Damon Williams and Carlos Baker and redshirt freshman Len Ware. Williams and Baker averaged 12.6 and 15.8 yards per catch, respectively, last season. Tight ends Sam Mineo and Talance Sawyer could emerge as threats.

The Rebels had trouble scoring last season,

earning a total of 30 touchdowns compared to 71 for their opponents.

"We've got to run the ball better with young quarterbacks," said Horton, who brought in a new offensive coordinator in Charlie Stubbs. "We've got to get out of constantly being in third-and-long situations."

DEFENSE: UNLV struggled defensively in the Big West and could have even bigger problems against the notoriously wide-open WAC offenses. The Big West usually has pro-style skill players but the WAC tends to be quicker and a bit deeper from top to bottom.

Horton wants to play fast-break football, but it will have to wait. No one returns on the defensive line other than end Charles Fisher, and he's recovering from back surgery. Junior college transfers and underclassmen will handle the brunt of the work up front. Junior Lamont Hicks, sophomore Ken Kinnard, sophomore Bret Gilbert and junior Daniel Martin try to hold the middle of the field together.

Opponents rushed the football for an average of 278.1 yards a game and threw for an average of 256.4 yards a game against the Rebels. Three of the four members of the secondary—seniors Jermaine Webster and Carlos Hillard and sophomore Quincy Sanders—return.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Sophomore punter Joe Kristosik returns after a busy season, booting the ball 57 times for an average of 39.8 yards. Kicker Alan Di Leo made 13 of 15 extra-point attempts and was 2-for-3 on field-goal attempts, although his longest try was from 29 yards. The entire return game is back, with the elusive Burton sharing the duties with Baker and junior receiver Deriek Charles.

RECRUITING: Horton began building for the future by bringing in 18 freshmen in the hope of strengthening classes for the future in the WAC. He added seven JUCO transfers, with linebacker Scott Patton expected to have the most immediate impact.

Andy Katz covers the WAC for the Fresno Bee.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Kevin Crook (So., 6-3, 215)	Jon Denton (Fr., 6-3, 210)
RB: DeJohn Branch (Sr., 5-11, 205)*	Tony Burton (Sr., 5-10, 190)
WR: Jason Toohey (Jr., 5-10, 180)*	Len Ware (Fr., 6-1, 190)
WR: Carlos Baker (So., 5-10, 195)*	Tony Burton (Sr., 5-10, 190)
WR: Damon Williams (So., 6-4, 225)*	Deriek Charles (Jr., 5-8, 160)
TE: Sam Mineo (So., 6-3, 250)	Talance Sawyer (So., 6-2, 250)
LT: Dennis Whitmore (Sr., 6-5, 295)*	Mike Williams (Jr., 6-4, 295)
LG: Jerald Pierucci (So., 6-4, 285)*	Rob Kaller (Jr., 6-0, 295)
C: Jon Zaczek (Jr., 6-0, 260)	Joe Catania (Fr., 6-3, 280)
RG: Mike Reilly (So., 6-3, 295)*	Kory Koske (Jr., 6-3, 300)
RT: Josh O'Brien (Fr., 6-4, 280)	Ben Glidewell (Jr., 6-6, 265)

DEFENSE

DE: Charles Fisher (Jr., 6-2, 255)*	Ted Darnell (So., 6-5, 270)
NT: Derrick Monroe (So., 6-2, 285)	Damien Howard (So., 6-4, 290)
DT: Dominic Andrews (Jr., 6-3, 275)	Mac Smith (Jr., 6-2, 275)
LB: Bret Gilbert (So., 6-2, 235)*	Roderick Jones (Fr., 6-2, 235)
LB: Lamont Hicks (Jr., 6-2, 230)	Scott Patton (Jr., 6-1, 225)
LB: Ken Kinnard (So., 6-2, 240)	Leroy Gambrell (Fr., 6-5, 225)
LB: Daniel Martin (Jr., 6-1, 220)	Jamie Handley (Sr., 5-9, 220)
CB: J. Webster (Sr., 5-10, 185)*	James Humes (So., 5-11, 170)
CB: Bobby Coffman (So., 5-11, 155)	Carlos Hillard (Sr., 5-8, 190)*
SS: Dan Stewart (Sr., 5-10, 190)	Carlos Hillard (Sr., 5-8, 190)
FS: Quincy Sanders (So., 6-3, 195)*	Anthony Brown (So., 6-0, 195)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Alan Di Leo (Jr., 5-8, 155)*	Tim O'Reilly (Fr., 6-0, 200)
P: Joe Kristosik (So., 6-3, 225)*	Tim O'Reilly (Fr., 6-0, 200)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Jeff Horton, 4th year, 9-14; 16-18 overall
'95 RECORD: 2-9 (1-5 Big West)
HOME STADIUM: Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, Nev. (32,000, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (7 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Robbie Morrison, OL (2nd-team All-Big West); Marvin Robinson, LB (2nd-team All-Big West); Rossie Johnson, LB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Kevin Crook, Soph., 21-39-216 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Tony Burton, Sr., 163 carries, 880 yards, 5 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Damon Williams, Soph., 41, 2 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Carlos Baker, Soph., 585
TACKLES: Quincy Sanders, Soph., 39
SACKS: Lamont Hicks, Jr. and Damien Howard, Soph., 1 each
INTERCEPTIONS: Carlos Hillard and Jermaine Webster, Srs., 2 each
PUNTING: Joe Kristosik, Soph., 39.8 avg.
KICKING: Alan Di Leo, Jr., 2-3 FGs (long 29), 13-15 PATs
SCORING: Burton, 54 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 . . . at Tennessee
 Sept. 7 . . . AIR FORCE
 Sept. 14 . . . WISCONSIN
 Sept. 21 . . . at Colorado State
 Sept. 28 . . . WYOMING
 Oct. 5 . . . NEVADA
 Oct. 12 . . . at BYU
 Oct. 19 . . . at Hawaii
 Oct. 26 . . . FRESNO STATE (HC)
 Nov. 2 . . . at TCU
 Nov. 16 . . . SAN DIEGO STATE
 Nov. 23 . . . at San Jose State

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 . . . at Rice; L, 38-0
 Sept. 9 . . . ARKANSAS STATE; W, 28-23
 Sept. 16 . . . at Eastern Michigan; L, 51-6
 Sept. 23 . . . at Iowa State; L, 57-30
 Sept. 30 . . . HAWAII; L, 58-30
 Oct. 7 . . . at Northern Illinois; L, 62-14
 Oct. 14 . . . at San Jose State; L, 52-14
 Oct. 28 . . . at Nevada; L, 55-32
 Nov. 4 . . . NORTH TEXAS; W, 34-24
 Nov. 11 . . . UTAH STATE; L, 42-0
 Nov. 18 . . . NEW MEXICO STATE; L, 58-34

MILESTONE

■ UNLV will play its first season in the WAC. However, one game against WAC member BYU won't count toward the conference standings. The Rebels already have eight league games and can't play nine. BYU had already set a nonconference game with UNLV years ago and didn't want to change it.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Stop the run, stop the pass—stop the football somehow.
- Develop a running game with DeJohn Branch and Omar Love.
- One of the quarterbacks has to emerge as a consistent starter.



FACTS

COACH: Ron McBride, 7th year, 41-30
'95 RECORD: 7-4 (6-2 conf.)
HOME STADIUM: Rice Stadium, Salt Lake City, Utah (32,500, artificial)
RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (8 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Henry Lusk, TE (2nd-team All-WAC); Chris Rae, OL (2nd-team All-WAC); Henry Kaufusi, DL (2nd-team All-WAC)

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Mike Fouts, Sr., 179-323-2,581 yards, 18 TDs, 12 INTs
RUSHING: Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala, Soph., 141 carries, 834 yards, 9 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Rocky Henry, Sr. (6 TDs), and Kevin Dyson, Jr. (6), 55 each
RECEIVING (YARDS): Henry, 866
TACKLES: Harold Lusk, Sr., 82
SACKS: Chad Kauhaahaa, Sr., 7
INTERCEPTIONS: Lusk, 6
PUNTING: Dan Pulsipher, Sr., 37.1 avg.
KICKING: Pulsipher, 17-22 FGs (long 52), 31-33 PATs
SCORING: Pulsipher, 88 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 ...at Utah State
 Sept. 7 ...at Stanford
 Sept. 14 ...at SMU
 Sept. 21 ...FRESNO STATE
 Sept. 28 ...KANSAS
 Oct. 5 ...at UTEP
 Oct. 19 ...TCU
 Oct. 26 ...TULSA (HC)
 Nov. 2 ...at Rice
 Nov. 9 ...at New Mexico
 Nov. 23 ...BYU

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 ...OREGON; L, 27-20
 Sept. 9 ...STANFORD; L, 27-20
 Sept. 16 ...at New Mexico; W, 36-9
 Sept. 23 ...FRESNO STATE; W, 25-21
 Sept. 30 ...at UTEP; W, 34-21
 Oct. 7 ...SAN DIEGO STATE; L, 24-21
 Oct. 14 ...COLORADO STATE; L, 19-14
 Oct. 21 ...AIR FORCE; W, 22-21
 Oct. 28 ...UTAH STATE; W, 40-20
 Nov. 4 ...at Wyoming; W, 30-25
 Nov. 18 ...at BYU; W, 34-17

MILESTONES

- Ron McBride needs just five victories to become Utah's second-winningest coach of all time.
- FS Harold Lusk's 13 career interceptions leave him five short of breaking the school record.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Play better at home.
- Continued maturation by the three sophomores on the offensive line.
- Fewer critical interceptions by QB Mike Fouts.

By PHIL MILLER

Somebody's going to pay. As far as coach Ron McBride and Utah are concerned, they've been wronged and they're out to make things right.

The Utes won their final four games of 1995 to capture a share of their first Western Athletic Conference championship in 31 years. Yet, when bowl bids came out, Utah was denied a chance to play in its fourth straight postseason game.

"It really upset us, sitting home at Christmas when we felt we should be playing," said McBride, already in midseason motivational form. "We need to put ourselves in a situation where nobody has a choice, nobody can make a decision about us. We're working to put it in our players' minds, make it a clear-cut thing this time."

With few key players departing from their 7-4 squad, the Utes have a decent shot at returning to postseason play.

OFFENSE: The revelation of Utah's football season was Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala, a 272-pound running back. As a freshman, Fuamatu-Ma'afala (834 yards, nine TDs) received his opportunity when starter Juan Johnson went down with turf toe against Fresno State and kept the job with four 100-yard games, including a 180-yard effort against Utah State.

"Chris has Heisman Trophy potential," McBride said about the WAC's Freshman of the Year. "He hits the hole as hard as he can every time—it's like an explosion."

McBride should know; he spent six weeks with his foot in a cast after accidentally being steamrolled by the freshman in a practice. Johnson, a junior who had 743 yards, gives Utah a dangerous running tandem.

It took Mike Fouts three games to win the starting quarterback job, but he proved worth the wait. Fouts passed for 2,581 yards and 18 touchdowns. He'll be challenged by Brandon Jones and newcomer Jonathon Crosswhite.

Although manned by three sophomores, the



HAROLD LUSK-FS

offensive line has experience. And Utah goes four-deep at the receiver spots, led by Kevin Dyson and Rocky Henry, who each had 55-catch, six-touchdown seasons, and highly touted JUCO transfer Daniel Jones from Mesa (Ariz.) Community College.

DEFENSE: McBride emphasizes speed on defense, and it shows. Defensive backs Calbert Beck (47 tackles, three INTs) and freshman Nin Burns may be Utah's fastest players, and the linebackers all earned their spots with quickness. Jason Hooks missed most of last season with a shoulder injury but returns at middle linebacker.

In the secondary, McBride is counting on safety Brandon Dart to rebound from a knee injury that ended his season on opening night against Oregon. The other safety is Harold Lusk, last year's WAC interception leader (six).

"[Lusk] should be the best free safety in the country. He should be an All America. He was the best guy back there in the conference last year," said McBride, rating Lusk ahead of former Colorado State All America Greg Myers.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Dan Pulsipher handled all the kicking chores in 1995 and turned in a solid 17-of-22 season kicking field goals. He'll continue in that role but may be challenged for the punting job, even though he turned two blown punts into long gains, one a 71-yard touchdown.

RECRUITING: McBride believes he may have his best recruiting class ever, since it includes four JUCO All Americans: Crosswhite (3,000 yards, 36 touchdowns last season), defensive back Mike Harris, Jones (led nation with 80 catches, 1,379 yards and was named JUCO Offensive Player of the Year) and tight end C.J. Johnson. McBride also snagged passer Darnell Arceneaux, the 1995 Athlete of the Year in Hawaii.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE			
QB: Mike Fouts (Sr., 5-10, 165)*	Brandon Jones (Sr., 6-3, 193)		
RB: Juan Johnson (Jr., 6-2, 208)*	Omar Bacon (So., 6-1, 198)		
RB: C. Fuamatu-Ma'afala (So., 6-1, 272)*	Tai Lepule (Jr., 6-0, 267)		
WR: Kevin Dyson (Jr., 6-2, 187)*	Terence Keenan (Sr., 6-3, 198)		
WR: Rocky Henry (Sr., 6-0, 183)*	Dan Jones (Jr., 6-0, 180)		
TE: Chris Jahries (Jr., 6-5, 233)	C.J. Johnson (Jr., 6-3, 225)		
LT: Nate Sybrowsky (So., 6-4, 297)	Josh Cochran (So., 6-5, 282)		
LG: Todd Jackson (So., 6-3, 308)*	Erik Stuhr (Sr., 6-1, 258)		
C: Chad Falk (Sr., 6-1, 280)	Brett Cook (Fr., 6-3, 267)		
RG: Darren Walker (So., 6-2, 261)*	Danny Davis (Jr., 6-3, 264)		
RT: Barry Sims (Sr., 6-5, 287)*	Jay Link (So., 6-8, 285)		
DEFENSE			
DE: Nate Kia (Sr., 6-2, 242)*	John Frank (Fr., 6-4, 240)		
DT: Jeff Kaufusi (Sr., 6-6, 255)	Vince Tauanuu (Sr., 6-5, 291)		
DT: Pene Talamaivao (Jr., 6-4, 288)	Ryan Akina (Jr., 6-6, 270)		
DE: Chad Kauhaahaa (Sr., 6-2, 253)*	Michael Baulkman (Sr., 6-3, 248)		
LB: Armand Baglin (Sr., 6-1, 200)*	David Cunningham (Sr., 5-11, 227)		
LB: Jason Hooks (Jr., 6-2, 256)	Tom Rosser (So., 5-11, 221)		
LB: Chris Godfrey (Jr., 6-2, 234)	Ben Brown (Sr., 6-4, 231)		
CB: Calbert Beck (Jr., 5-9, 182)*	David Richards (So., 6-1, 183)		
CB: Clarence Lawson (Jr., 5-7, 168)*	Artis Jackson (Sr., 6-0, 179)		
SS: Robert Love (So., 5-9, 197)	Brandon Dart (So., 6-0, 197)		
FS: Harold Lusk (Sr., 6-0, 193)*	Keith Harrison (Jr., 5-10, 195)		
SPECIAL TEAMS			
K: Dan Pulsipher (Sr., 6-1, 175)*	Tommy Truhe (Fr., 5-10, 186)		
P: Dan Pulsipher (Sr., 6-1, 175)*	Terence Keenan (Sr., 6-3, 198)		
	(* denotes returning starter)		

Phil Miller covers WAC football for the Salt Lake City Tribune.

No One Covers Notre Dame Football Like Blue & Gold Illustrated!

20 issues per year — weekly during the football season - monthly during the off-season. Just one issue (28-48 pages) of **Blue & Gold III** gives its 200,000 readers more Notre Dame information than your local paper does all year long.



For only \$37.95 per year (just 73 cents a week), here's what you'll get:

- The most thorough commentary, pre-game analysis and post-game coverage in the nation.
- Informative features on current and former Irish coaches and players.
- Coverage of every spring and pre-season practice.
- Extensive recruiting news and analysis.
- Stats, game photos, Irish in the Pros, and much more.

Unconditional money-back guarantee!

Mail to: **Blue & Gold Illustrated**
P.O. Box 1007 • Notre Dame, IN 46556

YES, sign me up for a subscription to **BGI**

☐ 1 Year (20 issues) only - **\$37.95**

☐ Send me a free sample issue

☐ Send me your free catalog

☐ Check/Money Order ☐ Bill Me ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ CF

Or Call: (219) 255-9800

FREE CATALOG

Return the coupon above or call for a FREE Blue & Gold 64-page catalog. Featuring over 400 Notre Dame licensed products.

INDEPENDENTS

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

RON POWLUS, QB, NOTRE DAME

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

RENALDO WYNN, DL, NOTRE DAME

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR:

RANK NELSON, WR, NOTRE DAME

POWLUS' EYES ARE SMILIN'

It used to be the only hammering during a South Bend winter went on inside the Joyce Athletic Center at the expense of the Notre Dame men's basketball team. But there was more banging going on during the recent football off-season than any recent regular season, more drilling than August two-a-days.

No part of the football program, it seemed, was safe from renovation. Cranes peered over the brick stadium walls, part of a two-year expansion project that will eventually bring Notre Dame Stadium's seating capacity to almost 81,000. Even the Golden Dome was encased in scaffolding. The coach walked around in a cervical collar and the star quarterback skipped spring practice with an 11-inch rod in his non-throwing arm.

The only thing that underwent a more extensive overhaul was the offense. A team that once held little more than a passing fancy for passing will now feature plenty of fancy passing. Out with the Horsemen, in with horsepower. And the man who puts the newly restored Notre Dame on public display is Ron Powlus.

"We're going to put a little more on the quarterback's shoulders," beamed the third-year quarterback, himself no stranger to repair. The broken humerus he suffered late last season against Navy was the second bad break of his college career—a collarbone cracked in a preseason scrimmage was the only thing that kept Powlus from starting as a true freshman.

In between, Powlus completed 55.4 percent of his pass attempts, threw for 3,582 yards and nearly twice as many touchdowns (31) as interceptions (16). So it's been either The Zone or reconstruction zone for the former National High School Player of the Year from Berwick, Pa. Considering only Rick Mirer has passed for more touchdowns in his Notre Dame career and that none of the seven Irish quarterbacks with more passing yards reached 3,500 in fewer than two full seasons, Powlus is understandably thrilled about finally having the chance to see what he can do in an offense styled for his skills.

"The little bit of new offense we showed at the Orange Bowl got me very excited," said

ALL-INDEPENDENT TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Player	Year	Ht./Wt.	College
QB	RON POWLUS	Sr.	6-2/225	NOTRE DAME
RB	MARC EDWARDS	Sr.	6-0/230	NOTRE DAME
RB	CHARLES TALLEY	Sr.	6-0/229	N. ILLINOIS
WR	CHAD MACKAY	Sr.	6-2/195	LOUISIANA TECH
WR	BRANDON STOKLEY	Soph.	6-0/175	SW LOUISIANA
TE	RON LESHINSKI	Sr.	6-3/240	ARMY
OL	SHAWN JENKINS	Jr.	6-3/294	NE LOUISIANA
OL	MIKE DOUGHTY	Jr.	6-7/304	NOTRE DAME
OL	JEREMY AKERS	Sr.	6-6/300	NOTRE DAME
OL	RON SUDDITH	Sr.	6-2/297	EAST CAROLINA
OL	KYLE SCOTT	Sr.	6-3/265	ARMY

DEFENSE

Pos.	Player	Year	Ht./Wt.	College
DL	RENALDO WYNN	Sr.	6-3/273	NOTRE DAME
DL	LORENZO WEST	Sr.	6-3/238	EAST CAROLINA
DL	TRAVIS DARDEN	Soph.	6-2/258	EAST CAROLINA
LB	KENDRICK THOMAS	Sr.	6-3/240	CENTRAL FLORIDA
LB	LYRON COBBINS	Sr.	6-0/241	NOTRE DAME
LB	STEPHEN KING	Sr.	6-1/225	ARMY
LB	BERT BERRY	Sr.	6-3/230	NOTRE DAME
DB	SEAN ANDREWS	Jr.	5-10/176	NAVY
DB	DAREN HART	Sr.	5-10/195	EAST CAROLINA
DB	GERVY ALOTA	Jr.	5-10/187	NAVY
DB	DAMON MASON	Sr.	5-9/175	SW LOUISIANA

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	Player	Year	Ht./Wt.	College
PK	MARTY KENT	Jr.	5-9/160	LOUISIANA TECH
P	CHARLIE PIERCE	Sr.	6-1/180	CENTRAL FLORIDA
RS	COREY WALKER	Sr.	5-10/185	ARKANSAS ST.

Powlus, who watched from the sidelines, his arm immobilized in a sling, as backup Thomas Krug nearly engineered an upset of heavily favored Florida State. "I can't wait to get back. It's very much my style."

With the injuries healed and the shackles removed, expect Powlus to thrive in a system that will rely on his ability to make quick reads and hit receivers sooner (can you say, "West Coast Offense?").

"What we're going to do now that he's experienced and we've seen him and trust him completely, is change our offense to utilize his talents more," coach Lou Holtz said. "The players have great respect for Ron Powlus as a quarterback, as a person and as a leader. I'd only change one thing . . . sometimes, he talks through his throat rather than from his chest. When you talk from your chest, you're more forceful."

Apparently, there may still be some work to be done.

—David Seigerman



NOTRE DAME

FACTS

COACH: Lou Holtz, 11th year, 92-27-2; 208-92-7 overall
'95 RECORD: 9-3
FINAL RANKINGS: No. 11 AP, No. 13 USA Today/CNN
HOME STADIUM: Notre Dame Stadium, South Bend, Ind. (59,075, grass)
RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (7 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Derrick Mayes, WR (3rd-team All America); Ryan Leahy, OG (3rd-team All America); Paul Grasmanis, NG; Shawn Wooden, CB; Dusty Zeigler, OG

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Ron Powlus, Sr., 124-217-1,853 yards, 12 TDs, 7 INTs
RUSHING: Randy Kinder, Sr., 143 carries, 809 yards, 9 TDs
RECEIVING (CATCHES): Marc Edwards, Sr., 25, 3 TDs
RECEIVING (YARDS): Edwards, 361
TACKLES: Lyron Cobbins, Sr., 105
SACKS: Renaldo Wynn, Sr., 6.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Cobbins, 5
PUNTING: Hunter Smith, Soph., 36.4 avg.
KICKING: Kevin Kopka, Soph., 6-11 FGs (long 38), 27-29 PATs
SCORING: Edwards, 76 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5 .at Vanderbilt
 Sept. 14 .PURDUE
 Sept. 21 .at Texas
 Sept. 28 .OHIO STATE
 Oct. 12 .WASHINGTON
 Oct. 19 .AIR FORCE
 Nov. 2 .vs. Navy*
 Nov. 9 .at Boston College
 Nov. 16 .PITTSBURGH
 Nov. 23 .RUTGERS
 Nov. 30 .at USC
 *at Croke Park, Dublin, Ireland

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2 .NORTHWESTERN; L, 17-15
 Sept. 9 .at Purdue; W, 35-28
 Sept. 16 .VANDERBILT; W, 41-0
 Sept. 23 .TEXAS; W, 55-27
 Sept. 30 .at Ohio State; L, 45-26
 Oct. 7 .at Washington; W, 29-21
 Oct. 14 .at Army; W, 28-27
 Oct. 21 .USC; W, 38-10
 Oct. 28 .BOSTON COLLEGE; W, 20-10
 Nov. 4 .NAVY; W, 35-17
 Nov. 18 .at Air Force; W, 44-14
 Jan. 1 .vs. Florida St. in Orange Bowl; L, 31-26

MILESTONES

- Ron Powlus, with 31 career TD passes, needs 11 more to overtake Rick Mirer as Notre Dame's career leader.
- This is the last season for 59,075-seat Notre Dame Stadium in its current configuration. Construction has begun on the House that Rockne Built, which will be expanded to 80,990 seats.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Keep Ron Powlus healthy.
- Find some productive wide receivers for Powlus.
- Overcome inexperience in the secondary.

By HERB GOULD

After playing his last game at Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl back in January, Ryan Leahy—whose grandfather Frank was a Fighting Irish coaching legend—predicted that Notre Dame would win at least one national championship in the next two years.

Lou Holtz's response?

"Typical alum."

However unrealistic, those are the expectations under the Golden Dome. The Irish fell out of the national championship hunt early last fall, losing to both Northwestern and Ohio State in September. Never mind that those two teams wound up among the nation's Top 10, as did Florida State, which handed Notre Dame its other loss in the Orange Bowl. In South Bend, 9-3 is a disappointing year.

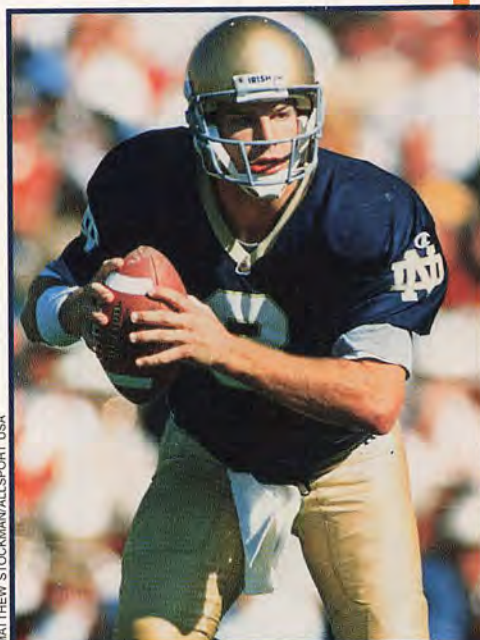
"I think we can go to another level," Holtz said. "We'd like to get to that level where we don't have to play a perfect game. I think we'll be pretty solid, but there are no guarantees."

The key this season will be whether the Irish can weather early-season meetings against Ohio State and Texas. If they can, the traditional season finale at USC could result in a thrilling showdown.

OFFENSE: Holtz is talking about incorporating a "Blarney" offense that could use as many as five wide receivers. The biggest concern on offense, however, will be replacing deep threat Derrick Mayes (48 catches, 881 yards), who was picked by Green Bay in the second round of the NFL Draft.

The assumption is that talented, but oft-injured quarterback Ron Powlus, who missed the last two games of the 1995 season after breaking his left arm, will come back healthy. Powlus missed spring practice, but all indications are that he'll have no lingering problems once summer camp begins.

Although Notre Dame, which returns seven starters on offense, is talking pass, the running game figures to remain its strength. The loaded backfield includes senior tailbacks Randy Kinder (809 yards, 9 TDs) and Robert Farmer, who might



RON POWLUS-QB

have to give way to terrific sophomore Autry Denison (695 yards, 8 TDs). Holtz also possesses maybe the nation's best fullback in senior Marc Edwards (717 yards, 9 rushing TDs).

DEFENSE: Coordinator Bob Davie will continue to build a more aggressive defense. With the departure of three starters in the secondary, that might be easier said than done.

Linebacker Lyron Cobbins, who led the team in tackles (105) and interceptions (five), heads a defensive group that won't dominate but should continue to improve. Joining Cobbins in an experienced front seven are senior defensive end Renaldo Wynn (team-high 6.5 sacks in '95) and outside linebackers Bert Berry (78 tackles) and Kory Minor (six sacks), who was impressive last season as a true freshman.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Sophomore Kevin Kopka, who connected on 6 of 11 field-goal attempts, and junior Scott Cengia, who hit 5 of 5 from shorter distances, could be challenged by freshman Jim Sanson for place-kicking duties. Sanson scored 346 career points at St. Mary's (Ariz.) High, including four field goals of longer than 50 yards. Punter Hunter Smith, despite a modest 36.4 average, doesn't appear to have any challengers.

RECRUITING: Notre Dame landed another top-10 recruiting class that included four players ranked among the nation's top 100 signees. At the head of the class are 6-foot-4, 270-pound defensive lineman Jason Ching of Honolulu; 6-6, 250-pound defensive lineman Brad Williams of Orange, Calif.; Dan O'Leary, a 6-5, 230-pound tight end from Westlake, Ohio; and Joey Goodspeed, a 230-pound fullback from Montgomery, Ill.

The Irish loaded up at wide receiver, a noted weak spot, signing Raki Nelson of Harrisburg, Pa., and Lewis Dawson, brother of former Notre Dame and current Kansas City Chiefs receiver Lake Dawson.

Herb Gould covers college football for the Chicago Sun-Times.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Ron Powlus (Sr., 6-2, 222)* **Tom Krug (Sr., 6-5, 205)**
RB: Autry Denison (So., 5-10, 189)* **Randy Kinder (Sr., 6-1, 204)**
RB: Marc Edwards (Sr., 6-0, 237)* **Robert Farmer (Sr., 5-11, 227)**
WR: Emmett Mosley (Sr., 5-8, 184) **Scott Sollmann (Sr., 5-8, 159)**
WR: Malcolm Johnson (Jr., 6-5, 203) **Cikoi Champion (Sr., 5-10, 183)**
TE: P. Chryplewicz (Sr., 6-5, 265)* **Kevin Carretta (Sr., 6-1, 239)**
LT: Chris Clevenger (Sr., 6-8, 290)* **Tim Ridder (So., 6-7, 297)**
LG: Jeremy Akers (Sr., 6-6, 300) **Jerry Wisne (So., 6-7, 285)**
C: Rick Kaczinski (Sr., 6-4, 264)* **Jon Spickelmier (Jr., 6-3, 267)**
RG: Mike Rosenthal (So., 6-7, 310) **Alex Mueller (So., 6-6, 275)**
RT: Mike Doughty (Sr., 6-8, 313)* **John Wagner (So., 6-7, 320)**

DEFENSE

DE: Renaldo Wynn (Sr., 6-3, 275)* **Kurt Belisle (Jr., 6-3, 251)**
NG: David Quist (Sr., 6-5, 290) **Alton Maiden (Sr., 6-4, 271)**
DE: Corey Bennett (Jr., 6-1, 251)* **Melvin Dansby (Sr., 6-4, 288)**
LB: Bert Berry (Sr., 6-3, 245)* **John McLaughlin (Jr., 6-4, 236)**
LB: Lyron Cobbins (Sr., 6-0, 246)* **Bill Mitoulas (Jr., 6-1, 229)**
LB: Kinnon Tatum (Sr., 6-0, 224)* **Bobbie Howard (So., 5-10, 228)**
LB: Kory Minor (So., 6-2, 235)* **Bill Wagasy (Sr., 6-3, 225)**
CB: Ivory Covington (Jr., 5-10, 168) **S. Stephens (So., 5-10, 179)**
CB: Allen Rossum (Jr., 5-8, 178)* **Bill Gibbs (Sr., 5-10, 171)**
SS: Benny Guilbeaux (So., 6-2, 202) **A'Jani Sanders (So., 5-11, 182)**
FS: Jarvis Edison (Jr., 6-4, 219) **Ty Goode (Jr., 5-11, 189)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Scott Cengia (Jr., 5-10, 180)* **Kevin Kopka (So., 5-7, 196)**
P: Hunter Smith (So., 6-2, 210)* **Scott Palumbo (Sr., 5-11, 189)**
 (* denotes returning starter)

ARMY



RONNIE McADA-QB

By MARK H. BICKEL

Lately, the game of football has been a thrill a minute for the Cadets. There's probably not enough film in Hollywood to record all of last season's dramatic outcomes. Army (5-5-1) had six games settled in the final minute and four of those came down to the last play. During one early-season stretch, Army saw the outcome of its game decided on the final play three weeks in succession.

They are no longer just the Cadets. They are the "Cardiac Cadets."

But Army has little to show for all of the excitement it has been generating on Saturday afternoons. The Cadets haven't been to a bowl game since 1988.

That could change in 1996, as Army returns an experienced quarterback, plays a softer schedule and remains under the leadership of head coach Bob Sutton. Sutton, now in his sixth season at West Point, was given a two-year contract extension thanks mostly to strong showings last season against national powers such as Notre Dame and Washington, and his fourth victory in five tries against arch-rival Navy.

OFFENSE: No quarterback controversy here. Senior Ronnie McAda, the main component in Sutton's wishbone scheme, is considered the finest quarterback to direct Army's triple option. He has started 19 consecutive games. He was the team's second leading rusher (701 yards) last season and completed 50.5 percent (56 of 111) of his passes.

The graduation of Army's top rusher in 1995, fullback John Conroy, presents one of two big question marks for Sutton on offense. Senior Demetrius Perry (182 yards, 2 TDs) is Conroy's heir apparent. Jeff Brizic (116 yards, 1 TD) and Rashad Hodge (255 yards, 3 TDs) will occupy the left and right halfback positions, respectively.

When McAda passes, his favorite target is

senior tight end Ron Leshinski (15 catches, 210 yards), one of Army's most durable players. Multi-talented senior Ron Thomas, a strong runner and kick returner, returns at split end after catching 11 balls in '95.

Sutton's greatest challenge is rebuilding an offensive line decimated by graduation. The only returning starter is senior center Kyle Scott.

DEFENSE: A year ago, the biggest concern on defense was the linebackers, while there were no worries in the secondary. The scenario is now flip-flopped.

Senior linebacker Ben Kotwica and Stephen King will make Army a tough team to run against. Kotwica missed all or parts of four games last fall after suffering a sprained ankle in the loss to Washington. He was the Cadets' leading tackler at the time of the injury and still finished second with 66. King was right behind, registering 64 tackles.

Army loses Jim Cantelupe, a three-year starter at free safety, who led the Cadets in tackles and interceptions. Strong safety Ray Tomasits also graduated. Sutton's solution? Move Robert Brown and Jerrold Tyquengco from cornerback to free safety and strong safety, respectively. But Garland Gay, considered the team's top cover man, returns at cornerback.

The defensive line features a solid run-stopper in senior nose tackle Colin Kearns. Senior Hise Gibson and sophomore Larry Angles will start at the defensive end spots.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Army was forced to replace all three key components—punter, place-kicker and long-snapper—last fall. The newcomers were pleasant surprises and kicker J. Parker and long-snapper Rob Rodenmayer return. Parker successfully converted all 36 of his extra-point tries.

RECRUITING: The service academies are prohibited from commenting on recruits until late summer.

Mark H. Bickel is the assistant sports editor at the Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Journal.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Ronnie McAda (Sr., 6-3, 200)*	Johnny Goff (So., 6-2, 187)
RB: Rashad Hodge (Sr., 6-1, 209)*	Coby Short (Sr., 6-0, 198)
RB: Jeff Brizic (Sr., 5-10, 195)	Bobby Williams (So., 6-1, 195)
RB: Demetrius Perry (Sr., 6-0, 210)	Joe Hewitt (So., 6-1, 196)
WR: Ron Thomas (Sr., 5-11, 178)*	Brad Miller (Jr., 5-11, 192)
TE: Ron Leshinski (Sr., 6-3, 242)*	Theo Unbehagen (Jr., 6-3, 235)
LT: Dave Beard (Jr., 6-2, 255)	Matt Yost (Jr., 6-1, 268)
LG: Doug Chadwick (Sr., 6-3, 275)	Jeremy Chapman (Jr., 6-4, 275)
C: Kyle Scott (Sr., 6-3, 265)*	Rod Rodenmayer (Sr., 6-3, 270)
RG: Jeff Enck (So., 6-0, 260)	G. McIngvale (So., 6-2, 276)
RT: Tim Booth (Sr., 6-3, 265)	Rich Fredricks (Sr., 6-3, 268)

DEFENSE

DE: Larry Angles (So., 6-4, 238)	Justin Brandon (Jr., 6-4, 220)
DT: C.W. Estes (Sr., 6-3, 260)	Joe Stanyer (So., 6-3, 258)
NT: Colin Kearns (Sr., 6-1, 258)*	Jeff Forgach (Jr., 6-0, 247)
DE: Hise Gibson (Sr., 6-1, 235)	Tony Bianchi (Sr., 6-2, 235)
LB: Jeff Dietz (Jr., 6-3, 222)	Chad Suiton (So., 6-1, 223)*
LB: Stephen King (Sr., 6-1, 230)*	Matt Coldsnow (Jr., 6-0, 228)
LB: Ben Kotwica (Sr., 5-11, 205)*	Brandon Tilford (So., 6-3, 216)
CB: Garland Gay (Sr., 5-10, 187)*	Donald Augustus (Sr., 6-1, 180)
CB: Tom Mullins (Jr., 6-0, 200)	J. Tyquengco (Sr., 5-8, 188)
SS: Jerrold Tyquengco (Sr., 5-8, 188)	Matt Rogers (Jr., 6-2, 198)
FS: Robert Brown (Jr., 6-0, 190)*	Tom Mullins (Sr., 6-0, 200)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Parker (Sr., 5-10, 170)*	Eric Olsen (So., 5-10, 180)
P: Scot Lord (Jr., 6-4, 229)	Eric Olsen (So., 5-10, 180)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Bob Sutton, 6th year, 24-30-1

'95 RECORD: 5-5-1

HOME STADIUM: Michie Stadium, West Point, N.Y. (39,929, artificial)

RETURNING STARTERS 12 (5 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: John Conroy, RB; Joel Davis, OL; Ed Stover, OL; Bill Blair, OL; Jim Cantelupe, FS; Akili King, RB; Al Roberts, DT; Bill Doult, LB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Ronnie McAda, Sr., 56-111-761 yards, 5 TDs, 6 INTs

RUSHING: McAda, 154 carries, 701 yards, 10 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Ron Leshinski, Sr., 15, 2 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Leshinski, 210

TACKLES: Ben Kotwica, Sr., 66

SACKS: Scott Eichelberger, Sr., 2.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Stephen King, Donald Augustus and Garland Gay, Sr., 1 each

PUNTING: None

KICKING: J. Parker, Sr., 9-13 FGs (long 48);

36-36 PATs

SCORING: Parker, 63 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 14	.OHIO
Sept. 21	.DUKE
Sept. 28	.at North Texas
Oct. 5	..YALE
Oct. 12	.at Rutgers*
Oct. 19	.TULANE (HC)
Oct. 26	.at Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 2	..LAFAYETTE
Nov. 9	..AIR FORCE
Nov. 16	.at Syracuse
Dec. 7	..vs. Navy**

* at Giants Stadium, E. Rutherford, N.J.

** at Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia, Pa.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 9	..LEHIGH; W, 42-9
Sept. 16	.DUKE; L, 23-21
Sept. 23	.at Washington; L, 21-13
Sept. 30	..RICE; T, 21-21
Oct. 14	..vs. Notre Dame; L, 28-27
Oct. 21	.at Boston College; W, 49-7
Oct. 28	..COLGATE; W, 56-14
Nov. 4	..EAST CAROLINA; L, 31-25
Nov. 11	.at Air Force; L, 38-20
Nov. 18	..BUCKNELL; W, 37-6
Dec. 2	..vs. Navy; W, 14-13

MILESTONE

■ Army finished third in the country last season in rushing yards per game (330.2).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- A virtually all new offensive line must blend immediately.
- Find adequate replacements at free safety and strong safety.
- Take advantage of a softer 1996 schedule.



FACTS

COACH: Charlie Weatherbie, 2nd year, 5-6; 20-25 overall

'95 RECORD: 5-6

HOME STADIUM: Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Annapolis, Md. (30,000, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS 16 (9 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Brian Schrum, P; Andy Person, DE; Garrett Smith, OG; Mark Hammond, DT; Fernando Harris, LB; Joe Speed, DB; Andy Thompson, DB; Bryce Minamyer, OL

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Ben Fay, Sr., 73-144-869 yards, 3 TDs, 5 INTs

RUSHING: Chris McCoy, Jr., 168 carries, 803 yards, 7 TDs

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Cory Schemm, Sr., 25, 1 TD

RECEIVING (YARDS): Schemm, 327

TACKLES: Clint Bruce, Sr., 117

SACKS: Bruce, 2

INTERCEPTIONS: Sean Andrews, Jr., 8

PUNTING: None

KICKING: Jason Covarrubias, Soph., 7-15 FGs

SCORING: McCoy, 42 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 ...at Rutgers

Sept. 21 ...SMU

Sept. 28 ...at Boston College

Oct. 5 ...DUKE (HC)

Oct. 12 ...at Air Force

Oct. 26 ...at Wake Forest

Nov. 2 ...vs. Notre Dame*

Nov. 9 ...DELAWARE

Nov. 16 ...TULANE

Nov. 23 ...at Georgia Tech

Dec. 7 ...ARMY#

* at Croke Park, Dublin, Ireland

at Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 9 ...at SMU; W, 32-2

Sept. 16 ...at Rutgers; L, 27-17

Sept. 23 ...WAKE FOREST; L, 30-7

Sept. 30 ...at Duke; W, 30-9

Oct. 7 ...VIRGINIA TECH; L, 14-0

Oct. 14 ...AIR FORCE; L, 30-20

Oct. 21 ...VILLANOVA; W, 20-14

Nov. 4 ...at Notre Dame; L, 35-17

Nov. 11 ...DELAWARE; W, 31-7

Nov. 18 ...TULANE; W, 35-7

Dec. 2 ...vs. Army; L, 14-13*

* at Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia

MILESTONE

■ The Midshipmen improved dramatically on defense, moving from 87th in total defense in 1994 to 18th last season.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Talented offense needs to play up to its potential.
- Find a punter somewhere near the caliber of Brian Schrum.
- Beat rival Army—the Midshipmen are 1-5 vs. the Cadets since 1990.

By MARK H. BICKEL

Take away a bitter, season-ending loss to rival Army and 1995 was a monumental year for Navy.

The Midshipmen (5-6) improved dramatically in nearly every facet of the game under first-year head coach Charlie Weatherbie.

Navy's five victories were the most since 1990. The Midshipmen ranked seventh nationally in rushing yards (233.6), 17th in scoring defense—up from 102nd the year before—and in turnover margin, they moved from tied for 97th to tied for 19th.

All of that amounted to something not seen in quite awhile in Annapolis—a competitive football team, one that appeared it wanted to shed its dorm-status.

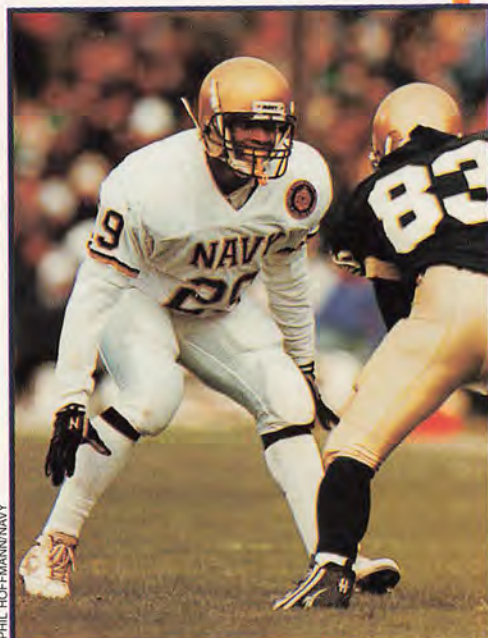
Certainly, the off-season would have been more enjoyable if not for the 14-13 loss to Army.

Navy was 1 yard from the end zone with a six-point lead and under nine minutes remaining in the game. Weatherbie decided to take another crack at the end zone on fourth down. The Army defense held, and its offense marched 99 yards for a last-minute, game-winning touchdown.

"It would have been nice to have that first winning season, but I think the good Lord has a plan for us and I think things are going to turn around," Weatherbie said.

OFFENSE: Nine starters are back on offense. Among the group are two experienced quarterbacks. One, junior Chris McCoy, has the fast feet. The other, senior co-captain Ben Fay, has the strong arm. McCoy, better suited for Navy's spread offense, set four school records a year ago when he led the Midshipmen in rushing with 803 yards while scoring seven touchdowns. Fay led the team in passing and was the starter in the final four games. During that span, he completed 73 of his 144 attempts for 869 yards and three touchdowns.

"We know what they both can do," Weatherbie said. "Now it's just a matter of them continuing to



SEAN ANDREWS-CB

improve on the little things."

When those two don't have the ball, junior fullback Tim Cannada is one player who will. He finished second behind McCoy in rushing with 409 yards and three touchdowns.

Senior Astor Heaven is the team's primary receiver. He was second on the team to Cory Schemm in receptions (18) and yards (240). The offensive line remains pretty much intact and is anchored by junior Brian Dreschler, a 250-pound All-East center.

DEFENSE: The brightest star among the six returning starters is junior cornerback Sean Andrews, one of three returnees in the secondary. Andrews' eight interceptions last year tied him for the lead nationally. The other starters are junior free safety Gervy Alota and senior corner Robert Green.

Defensive backs Joe Speed and Andy Thompson and linebacker Fernando Harris, who combined to record 228 tackles, are the three biggest losses in Weatherbie's 4-3 defense.

Pencil in juniors Kevin Lewis (3 INTs) at strong safety and Rashad Smith at weak safety. Senior co-captain Clint Bruce fills the hole left by Harris and will become a dominating player at linebacker. The defensive line features senior ends Cal Quinn and Tom Poulter.

SPECIAL TEAMS: It's not often that a punter is considered a key loss, but replacing Brian Schrum and his 40.7-yard average is critical for the Midshipmen. Sophomore Jason Covarrubias and senior Travis Wells are in line to fill the vacancy. Neither has punted in a varsity game. Covarrubias contributed 40 points last season as the team's kicker, but will get competition from sophomore Tom Vanderhorst, who booted two field goals in the season finale against Army.

RECRUITING: The service academies aren't allowed to comment on recruits until late summer.

Mark H. Bickel is the assistant sports editor at the Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Journal.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Ben Fay (Sr., 6-1, 198)*	Chris McCoy (Jr., 5-9, 186)*
RB: Tim Cannada (Jr., 5-10, 196)*	Omar Nelson (Sr., 5-9, 229)
SB: Patrick McGrew (Jr., 5-11, 225)*	Cory Schemm (Sr., 6-0, 196)
SB: Will Smith (Sr., 5-4, 170)	Howard Bryant (Sr., 5-10, 199)
WR: Astor Heaven (Sr., 6-2, 203)*	Mark Mill (So., 6-1, 185)
WR: LeBron Butts (Jr., 6-2, 190)*	Neal Plaskanos (Sr., 6-2, 220)
LT: Greg Summa (Jr., 6-3, 250)	Jared Jacobs (Jr., 6-5, 266)
LG: J.D. Gainey (Jr., 6-1, 255)*	Alex Domino (Sr., 6-4, 284)
C: Brian Dreschler (Jr., 5-10, 250)*	Lester Fortney (Sr., 6-3, 264)
RG: David Loya (Jr., 6-0, 265)*	Jeff Smith (Sr., 6-1, 275)
RT: Scott Zimmerman (Sr., 6-3, 238)	Blain Kindler (So., 6-1, 250)

DEFENSE

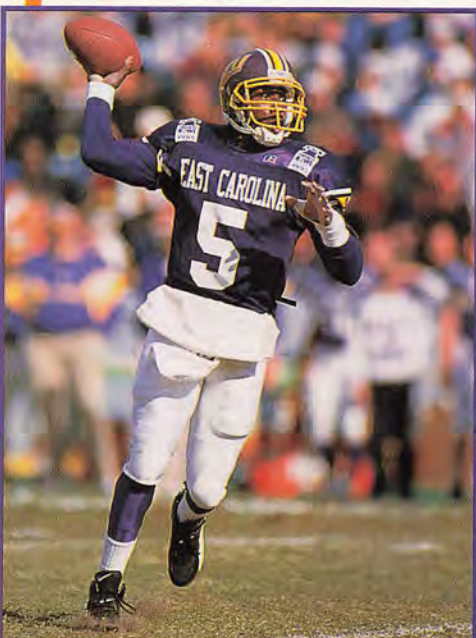
DE: Tom Poulter (Sr., 6-2, 237)*	Dennis Kane (Jr., 6-4, 220)
DT: Chad Holzapfel (Sr., 6-5, 250)*	Jerome Dixon (Sr., 6-0, 215)
DT: Jason Snider (So., 6-2, 228)	Brian Nowitski (Jr., 6-3, 245)
DE: Cal Quinn (Sr., 6-5, 240)	Michael Ogden (Jr., 6-1, 220)
LB: Jason Coffey (Jr., 5-11, 215)	Travis Cooley (Jr., 5-10, 240)
LB: Clint Bruce (Sr., 6-0, 234)*	David Joseforsky (Sr., 6-0, 220)
CB: Sean Andrews (Jr., 5-10, 176)*	Gerald Wilson (Jr., 5-11, 189)
CB: Robert Green (Sr., 5-9, 184)*	Enrico Hunter (So., 5-11, 181)
SS: Kevin Lewis (Jr., 6-0, 200)	Adam Credion (So., 6-0, 187)
FS: Gervy Alota (Jr., 5-10, 187)*	Charles Fisher (Jr., 6-1, 190)
WS: Rashad Smith (Jr., 6-0, 213)	D. Morgan (So., 5-11, 194)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Tom Vanderhorst (So., 6-0, 176)	J. Covarrubias (So., 5-10, 173)*
P: J. Covarrubias (So., 5-10, 173)	Travis Wells (Sr., 6-2, 199)

(* denotes returning starter)

EAST CAROLINA



MARCUS CRANDELL-QB

By CRAIG ELLENPORT

When you're an independent that's not Notre Dame, you've got to "prove it, prove it and prove it again," said East Carolina head coach Steve Logan. So, after two consecutive trips to the Liberty Bowl, his Pirates are back for more. Apparently, a 9-3 record that included a road win over Syracuse and a bowl win over Stanford wasn't enough proof to put East Carolina in the final *Associated Press* Top 25. But not everyone overlooked the Pirates—the *New York Times* gave them a final ranking of 14. The quest for respect is getting there, slowly but very surely.

"We have won more football games in the last two years than anybody in the Carolinas," Logan said. "We've just got to keep doing that to gain the recognition that everybody is striving for."

OFFENSE: Logan's specialty is the passing game, and he's been blessed with two big-time quarterbacks to run his complex schemes. First there was current Cincinnati Bengal Jeff Blake. Now there is Marcus Crandell, who in two years as the starter has already shattered Blake's career records for total offense and passing yards.

"Marcus doesn't have the flamboyance that Jeff Blake had," said Logan, "but I wouldn't trade him for any quarterback in the country that I've seen." Note: East Carolina did play Peyton Manning and Tennessee last season.

Crandell threw for 2,751 yards as a junior last year, with 18 TD passes and 12 interceptions. He added six rushing scores. Crandell is fully stocked with an experienced receiving corps featuring two of the most productive pass-catchers in school history. H-back Mitchell Galloway, a senior, and flanker Jason Nichols, a junior, combined for 89 catches and 1,121 receiving yards in 1995.

The Pirates must replace their leading rusher for the second year in a row, but Logan likes what he sees in sophomore Daryl Jones, a 5-foot-10,

208-pounder whose best attribute may be his hands. Jones will compete for time with fellow sophomores Scott Harley and Raymond Mabry. **DEFENSE:** East Carolina must replace linebacker Mark Libiano, the team's leading tackler each of the last three seasons. Overall, however, defensive prospects are looking up. The Pirates were seventh in the nation last year in pass defense—partially because they see such a good passing team in practice—and they shut down a solid Stanford offense in the bowl game.

The Pirates lost their best defensive tackle, Walter Scott, to graduation. Nose tackle Travis Darden, who started every game last season as a true freshman, is a potential star. "He's a lightning-quick type of guy and he had a great, great freshman year," Logan said of the 6-2, 258-pound Darden. "As good as I've seen."

While the linebacking corps is depleted, the secondary looks good with three of four starters back. Leading the way is the safety tandem of twin brothers Daren and David Hart.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Kicker Chad Holcomb and punter Matt Levine have been nothing if not inconsistent throughout their careers. But, as Logan points out, the Pirates manage to win with them. Holcomb had two game-winning kicks in '95 and then booted four field goals in the Liberty Bowl. Both Holcomb and Levine (37.1 average in '95) will be challenged by incoming recruits this fall. The return game, with Galloway on kickoffs and Nichols on punts, is solid.

RECRUITING: Logan's main concern is the ability to land key players in his home state. "We've been trying to break through in North Carolina for my entire time here as head coach, and it finally broke this year," he said. Out of 25 recruits, 17 are in-state. Two who could factor early are linebacker Raymond Massey (6-3, 238) and offensive lineman Anthony Nobles (6-7, 340).

Craig Ellenport is a free-lance writer based in New York City.

PROJECTED TWO-DEEP ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB: Marcus Crandell (Sr., 6-0, 204)*	Dan Gonzalez (Jr., 6-3, 205)
HB: M. Galloway (Sr., 5-10, 174)*	Linwood DeBrew (Jr., 5-11, 173)
RB: Scott Harley (So., 5-10, 210)	Raymond Mabry (So., 5-7, 187)
WR: Larry Shannon (Jr., 6-6, 200)*	Troy Smith (So., 6-3, 175)
WR: Jason Nichols (Jr., 5-11, 171)*	Lamont Chappell (So., 6-1, 170)
TE: Scott Richards (Sr., 6-5, 251)*	Sean Richardson (Sr., 6-5, 232)
LT: Jamie Gray (Sr., 6-2, 290)*	Dom Lausic (Fr., 6-6, 290)
LG: Corey Russell (So., 6-4, 280)	Brad Royal (So., 6-4, 249)
C: Danny Moore (So., 6-4, 285)	Ed Watkins (Sr., 6-4, 266)
RG: Lamont Burns (Sr., 6-5, 273)*	Shane McPherson (Sr., 6-3, 280)
RT: Ron Suddith (Sr., 6-2, 297)*	Stacey Whitehead (Jr., 6-6, 295)

DEFENSE

DT: Alphonso Collins (Jr., 6-3, 267)*	Mondell Corbett (So., 6-3, 270)
NT: Travis Darden (So., 6-2, 258)	Terrell Williams (Sr., 6-2, 270)
DT: Lorenzo West (Fr., 6-3, 238)*	Tomha McMillan (So., 6-4, 225)
LB: R. Coleman (So., 6-3, 230)	Freddie Claybrooks (Fr., 6-5, 217)
LB: Carlos Brown (Sr., 6-1, 230)	Jeff Kerr (So., 6-4, 230)
LB: Marvin Burke (Sr., 6-0, 249)	Shep Sepaniak (So., 6-2, 235)
LB: B.J. Crane (Sr., 6-1, 240)*	Matt Semenza (Jr., 6-3, 213)
CB: Kelvin Suggs (So., 6-2, 185)	Tabari Wallace (Jr., 5-11, 170)
CB: Dwight Henry (Sr., 5-11, 175)*	Bernard Lackey (So., 5-11, 191)
SS: Daren Hart (Sr., 5-10, 195)*	D. McKeithan (So., 6-3, 184)
FS: David Hart (Sr., 5-10, 183)*	Tavares Taylor (So., 6-3, 192)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Chad Holcomb (Sr., 6-2, 175)*	Brantley Rivers (Fr., 6-0, 185)
P: Matt Levine (Jr., 5-9, 205)*	Andrew Bayes (Fr., 6-3, 200)

(* denotes returning starter)

FACTS

COACH: Steve Logan, 5th year, 23-23

'95 RECORD: 9-3

HOME STADIUM: Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, Greenville, N.C. (35,000, grass)

RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (8 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Morris Foreman, LB; Mark Libiano, LB; Emmanuel McDaniel, CB; Jerris McPhail, RB

LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

PASSING: Marcus Crandell, Sr., 235-447-2,751 yards, 18 TDs, 12 INTs

RUSHING: Scott Harley, Soph., 61 carries, 263 yards, 1 TD

RECEIVING (CATCHES): Mitchell Galloway, Sr., 46, 3 TDs

RECEIVING (YARDS): Galloway, 619

TACKLES: Daren Hart, Sr., 92

SACKS: Lorenzo West, Sr., 9

INTERCEPTIONS: Hart, 3

PUNTING: Matt Levine, Jr., 37.1 avg.

KICKING: Chad Holcomb, Sr., 10-17 FGs (long 42), 27-31 PATs

SCORING: Holcomb, 57 points

1996 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	. EAST TENNESSEE STATE
Sept. 14	.at West Virginia
Sept. 21	.at South Carolina
Sept. 28	.CENTRAL FLORIDA
Oct. 10	.SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
Oct. 19	.at Miami (Fla.)
Nov. 2	.ARKANSAS STATE (HC)
Nov. 9	.at Virginia Tech
Nov. 16	.OHIO
Nov. 23	.at Memphis
Nov. 30	.vs. North Carolina State*

*at Carolinas Stadium, Charlotte, N.C.

1995 RESULTS

Sept. 2	.at Tennessee; L, 27-7
Sept. 9	.at Syracuse; W, 27-24
Sept. 16	.CENTRAL MICHIGAN; W, 30-17
Sept. 23	.at Illinois; L, 7-0
Sept. 30	.WEST VIRGINIA; W, 23-20
Oct. 7	.at Cincinnati; L, 13-10
Oct. 21	.TEMPLE; W, 32-22
Oct. 28	.at Southern Miss; W, 36-34
Nov. 4	.at Army; W, 31-25
Nov. 11	.TULSA; W, 28-7
Nov. 18	.MEMPHIS; W, 31-17
Dec. 30	.vs. Stanford in Liberty Bowl; W, 19-13

MILESTONES

■ QB Marcus Crandell, who already owns school career records for passing yards and total offense, needs two more TD passes to break Jeff Blake's school record of 43.

■ East Carolina has posted back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 1982-'83. The last time the Pirates had three or more consecutive winning seasons was from 1972-'79.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a new starting running back.
- Marcus Crandell must continue to develop, cut down on INTs.
- Find a play-making linebacker.

ALA.-BIRMINGHAM BLAZERS

COACH: Watson Brown, 2nd year, 5-6, 37-83-1 overall
'95 RECORD: 5-6 (Division I-AA)
STADIUM/LOCATION: Legion Field (83,091), Birmingham, Ala.
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Terry Collier, RB; Cedrick Buchanan, WR; Robert Leslie, DE; Kevin Thomason, K
RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (8 off., 8 def.)
SCHEDULE: A29 CHARLESTON SO.; S7 at Maryland; S14 ARKANSAS ST.; S21 JACKSONVILLE ST.; S28 at Auburn; O5 W. KENTUCKY; O19 SW LA. (HC); O26 at La Tech; N2 at Vanderbilt; N9 C. FLORIDA; N16 CINCINNATI

OVERVIEW: There are laws against allowing six-year-olds in the workplace—kindergarten poses a big enough challenge. Still, here's Alabama-Birmingham, six years into existence and trying to run (and pass and tackle) barely after it learned to walk. In 1989, the Blazers were a club team, which is to say a slightly more organized intramural squad with better equipment. But after three years in Division III and two more in I-AA, the Blazers are taking on the big time.

Good-bye, Wofford; hello, Auburn. Such is life in Division I-A, and UAB will probably take its lumps under head coach Watson Brown, who was well prepared by his Vanderbilt days. Brown heads into his new neighborhood with, let's see, two semi-experienced quarterbacks who last season combined for 1,105 yards and four TDs against 10 interceptions. Plus, his most seasoned running back carried less than nine times a game. All things considered, the Olympic soccer matches could produce more offense at Legion Field than the Blazers.

At least the top two tacklers return in senior linebacker Kerry Frazier (91 tackles) and sophomore defensive back Alan Willis (85 tackles), which means the Blazers have a fighting chance of getting the ball back for their offense. Not that they'll be able to do much with it—perhaps one more year of nursery school would have helped.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Receiving corps must improve.
- Find new kicker and punter.
- Survive quantum leap to Division I-A.

ARKANSAS STATE INDIANS

COACH: John Bobo, 4th year, 9-23-1
'95 RECORD: 6-5 (3-3 Big West)
STADIUM/LOCATION: Indian Stadium (33,410), Jonesboro, Ark.
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Kyle Richardson, P (1st-team All-Big West); Carlos Emmons, DE (2nd-team All-Big West); Johnny Covington, QB; Carlo White, NG
RETURNING STARTERS: 9 (3 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)
SCHEDULE: A31 at BYU; S7 AUSTIN PEAY; S14 at UAB; S21 N. ILLINOIS; O5 C. ARKANSAS; O12 at SW La.; O19 SE MISSOURI ST. (HC); O26 at Mississippi; N2 at E. Carolina; N9 LA TECH; N16 at Nevada

OVERVIEW: For once, Arkansas State didn't start losing until after the season was over. After finishing 1-10 in 1994, the Indians rallied for their first winning season since 1987. Such a dramatic turnaround—second only to Northwestern in the Division I-A ranks—was enough for John Bobo to earn Coach of the Year honors in the Big West. Arkansas State ended the year with four straight wins and actually seemed headed into the post-season on a positive note.

Then midnight struck. The Indians lost their all-time leading passer, their all-time most productive punter, 14 starters overall and, oh yes, their conference affiliation. If Corey Walker thought he was busy last season—recording the ninth

1,000-yard rushing season in school history, becoming the first running back ever to lead Arkansas State in receptions and piling up the nation's eighth-highest all-purpose output—he's likely to spend his senior season pining away for the thrilling days of yesteryear. Only 5-foot-10, 185 pounds, Walker simply cannot be asked to carry the load again. He started and finished last season with three consecutive 100-yard games, but when he was stymied during the middle part of the schedule (183 rushing yards), the Indians lost four of five.

Senior Austin Tinsley (267 yards) must become a threat in his new role as H-back, and senior receiver Reginald Murphy (38 recs., 380 yards) needs to make Fred Barnett a distant memory. Murphy enters the year 18 receptions shy of Barnett's career record, but he's got to far surpass last season's output if the Indians are going to score more than 200 points for the second time in the '90s.

Defense keyed Arkansas State's strong finish, allowing only 37 points in the last four games. All-Big West end Gary Jackson and a fairly experienced secondary hope to pick up where they left off.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Get the ball in Corey Walker's hands as much as possible.
- Another giant season for Gary Jackson.
- Find a new quarterback.

CENTRAL FLORIDA Golden Knights

COACH: Gene McDowell, 12th year, 76-49
'95 RECORD: 6-5 (Division I-AA)
STADIUM/LOCATION: Florida Citrus Bowl (70,349), Orlando, Fla.
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Marquette Smith, TB; Gerod Davis, FB; Emil Ekiyor, DE; Allen Powell, CB; Scott Braun, TE
RETURNING STARTERS: 15 (6 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)
SCHEDULE: A31 WILLIAM & MARY; S7 at S. Carolina; S14 at New Mexico; S21 at Ball St.; S28 at E. Carolina; O12 SAMFORD; O19 NE LA.; O26 at Georgia Tech; N2 ILLINOIS ST. (HC); N9 at UAB; N16 BOWLING GREEN

OVERVIEW: Now that Central Florida is an official Division I-A member, it won't take long for people to hear about Daunte Culpepper's right arm. The buzz began last year when the freshman quarterback started his collegiate career on the right foot.

Culpepper made what is considered the best debut by a true freshman quarterback in football history, though the NCAA does not maintain records of such milestones. He completed his first 12 passes, 20 of 25 by game's end, and threw for 254 yards and three touchdowns in an upset over I-AA power Eastern Kentucky. He finished his inaugural season with 2,071 yards and a dozen touchdowns, and now the 6-foot-4 sophomore hopes to lead the Golden Knights to a similarly successful splash in their first season of I-A football.

Before Culpepper joins the elite Florida quarterback fraternity, someone has to find him a supporting cast. The Golden Knights lost their leading rusher (tailback Marquette Smith), top receiver (fullback Gerod Davis) and both starting guards, and no one is going to mistake Culpepper's receivers for the ones at Danny Wuerffel's or Thad Busby's disposal. One of three newcomers—freshman Kenny Clark and JUCO transfers Nikko Cooper and Wesley Moore—must become a reliable target.

Even though Culpepper is the kind of quarterback who can thrive in shootout conditions, the defense would be wise to keep things comfortably close. The strongest segment will be the linebackers, where Nakia Reddick, Syracuse transfer

Kendrick Thomas and John Bryant—the top three tacklers from '95—return for their senior seasons. The backfield is in the capable hands of senior cornerback Darryl Latimore (team-high three INTs) and junior free safety Kenton Rickerson (fifth on the team with 53 tackles).

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Someone must fill Marquette Smith's shoes at running back.
- Develop better depth at defensive back.
- Newcomers must step up at wide receiver.

LOUISIANA TECH Bulldogs

COACH: Gary Crowton, 1st year
'95 RECORD: 5-6 (2-4 Big West)
STADIUM/LOCATION: Joe Aillet Stadium (30,200), Ruston, La.
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Willie Smith, DB (3rd-team All America); Derrick Moore, DL (Hon. mention All-Big West); Grant Williams, OT (Hon. mention All-Big West); Shannon Jenkins, LB; Lance Reed, LB
RETURNING STARTERS: 13 (6 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)
SCHEDULE: A31 MIDDLE TENNESSEE ST.; S7 BAYLOR; S14 at Central Michigan; S21 at Mississippi St.; S28 SW LOUISIANA; O8 at Texas A&M; O12 at Arkansas; O19 TOLEDO (HC); O26 UAB; N2 at N. Illinois; N9 at Arkansas St.

OVERVIEW: The off-season was a period of transition, and not necessarily a happy one.

First, there was the resignation of head coach Joe Raymond Peace. On the very same day that the former Bulldogs all-star linebacker departed after eight years at the helm, offensive coordinator Gary Crowton was announced as his successor.

Just over a month later came the tragic news that All-America defensive back Willie Smith had died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. His death occurred only a few days after being chosen as the "Defensive Player of the Year" in the Big West.

There was also Tech's departure from the Big West, where they had lodged for the past four years. Now, they will compete in the I-A independent circles.

How will the Bulldogs respond to all of these changes? Another tough schedule—witness the addition of Arkansas, Baylor, Mississippi State and Texas A&M—could make the challenge even tougher.

One thing won't change. Crowton will retain his offensive coordinator duties along with being head coach. He should have fun working with what looms as one of the school's most productive offenses ever. Returning as one of Division I-A's top-rated pass-catch combinations is "The M&M Gang"—quarterback Jason Martin and wideout Chad Mackey. Mackey is I-A's top returning receiver after ranking No. 3 last year with 90 catches and 1,253 yards. "Those two guys make it fun for all of us," noted tight end Josh Bradley, a 6-foot-7, 255-pound junior who is due to play an even bigger role in the club's wide-open assault. It doesn't hurt either to have cheetah-quick running backs, such as Lee Ragsdale (768 rushing yards, 5 TDs) and Jason Armstrong (689, 7 TDs) returning. JUCO transfers Robert Saums, Justin Moss and Jon Larsen should speed up the rebuilding job along the offensive line.

The Bulldogs' defense will play this season for Smith. The players will wear insignias with his familiar "33" jersey number and try to carry on the hard-hitting, big play talents that so often characterized his play. "You're never ready for something like this," said junior safety Eric Starks, one of the returning starters in the secondary. "But Willie would have wanted all of us to carry on. That's what we will do and with him

in our memories each time we step out on the field."

The return of end Keith Washington from a red-shirt injury season helps offset the loss of four outstanding linebackers to graduation. With Smith's loss, more responsibility falls on the shoulders of junior corner James Crockett, who was eighth in Division I-A interceptions with six last year. Ever-improving junior Myron Smith is the best of the linebackers.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Adapt quickly to coaching change.
- Overcome tragic loss of All-America cornerback Willie Smith.
- Several newcomers must emerge at linebacker.

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA INDIANS

COACH: Ed Zaunbrecher, 3rd year, 5-17-0

'95 RECORD: 2-9

STADIUM/LOCATION: Malone Stadium (30,427), Monroe, La.

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Stepfret Williams, WR; Orlando Bobo, OG; Charles Randolph, TE; Keith Dailey, TE; Wylan Terrell, DT

RETURNING STARTERS: 15 (4 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A29 NICHOLLS ST.; S7 MINNESOTA; S14 at UCLA; S21 SAM HOUSTON ST.; S28 at Arkansas; O5 NORTHWESTERN ST (HC); O19 at C. Florida; N2 at Mississippi State; N9 at Auburn; N16 JACKSONVILLE ST.; N23 at Cincinnati

OVERVIEW: There's nothing wrong with being generous, but Northeast Louisiana's defense overdid that virtue in 1995. Having to go up against some of the top Division I-A teams in the country, the Indians allowed averages of 479.0 yards and 37.0 points a game.

It's no surprise, then, that head coach Ed Zaunbrecher went job hunting for a new defensive coordinator during the off-season. Enter Drew Fabianich, who will install a 4-3 scheme.

"The defense will be different with Drew," Zaunbrecher said. "We've had meetings to get everybody on the same page. By the time the season rolls around, we should have a good feel for what we're doing. I want our guys to know what to do and to do it all out."

There will be plenty of challenges. Among NLU's opponents are UCLA, Minnesota, Arkansas, Mississippi State and Auburn.

The proverbial "bad news, good news" story applies to the Indians' offense this year. Bad news: Graduation took away both starting wide receivers, one of them being school record-setter Stepfret Williams (66 recs., 1,056 yards in 1995). Good news: Quarterback Raymond Philyaw returns for his final season after ranking No. 12 in Division I-A passing efficiency and No. 20 in total offense, helping NLU finish No. 19 in the country in passing offense. More good news is that five running backs and receivers who combined for 48 catches in 1995 are back to take up the slack left by Williams. Anchoring the line will be junior center Tommy Franklin and junior tackle Shawn Jenkins, who both started all 11 games last year. Zaunbrecher is doing his best not to cry in his energy drink with the departure of the speedy Williams. "We lose a great one in Stepfret, but we've got some younger guys who can fill in and do very well for us," he said.

On the other side of the ball the Indians must improve. There wasn't a game last year in which NLU gave up fewer than 20 points. Nine of the 11 opponents scored 31 or more points. Can Fabianich be a miracle worker? The numbers are there to make an improvement. Nine starters and 27 lettermen return, the most pleasing area being in the secondary. Senior cornerback Corey Sampson tied for eighth in the nation in intercep-

tions with six, senior rover Michael Young was second on the club in tackles with 80 and senior corner/safety Alonzo Hampton had the third-best tackle total with 69. The best of the defensive line group is junior end Steve Foley, a third-team All-Independent choice.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- A major improvement on defense.
- Quarterback Raymond Philyaw must pick up where left off last year.
- The emergence of several young wideouts to fill the void left by Stepfret Williams.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES

COACH: Joe Novak, 1st year

'95 RECORD: 3-8 (3-3 Big West)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Huskie Stadium (31,000), DeKalb, Ill.

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Hollis Thomas, NG (1st-team All-Big West); C.J. Rose, DE (2nd-team All-Big West); Derek Sholdice, OT (2nd-team All-Big West); Mike Sutherland, C (2nd-team All-Big West); Duane Arrindell, OG (Hon. Mention All-Big West)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (5 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 at Maryland; S7 W. ILLINOIS; S14 at Penn State; S21 at Arkansas St.; S28 UTEP; O5 NORTH TEXAS (HC); O19 at Louisville; O26 AKRON; N2 LA TECH; N9 at SW La.; N16 at Oregon St.

OVERVIEW: The folks at Northern Illinois consider Charles Talley the best running back no one has seen. This season, they hope he becomes the best tailback no one can see. The Huskies are expected to field an offensive line worthy of the team's nickname, a five-man wall averaging 6-foot-4, 312-pounds from tackle to tackle behind which Talley could tally statistics similar to last year when he had the third-best season in school history (1,540 yards). NIU will be noticeably massive at the tackle spots, which will be manned by Jamie Macdonald (6-5, 308) and Chris "Big Continent" Thornton (6-8, 347).

"This [the running game] is the strength of the football team," coach Joe Novak said. "We have Big Ten-level talent and depth at this position."

"Talley's the one kid that jumps out at you. He's a physical runner, a tough kid. That's a great way to start a running game with a kid like that."

Running behind those two and guard Kent Booth (6-3, 308) gives Talley a chance to become the third Huskie back to lead the nation in rushing. Mark Kellar, the school's all-time leader, and LeShon Johnson were the first two. More important to his success, however, will be the rapid development of some kind of passing presence. Flanker Deon Mitchell will get the ball more often than the 23 times he did a year ago, but the source remains unspecified—the quarterback spot is up for grabs between Brandon Barker (Bubby Brister's nephew with three starts on his resumé) and fellow junior Kenneth Williams (who started the '95 finale).

Figure things to get defensive around NIU—and not just in terms of Talley's underrated status. Novak prioritizes defense, which comes as a welcome change for a program that ranked 99th out of the 108 Division I-A schools last season after yielding 460.4 yards per game. Eight starters return on defense, unfortunately Hollis Thomas and C.J. Rose—the unit's only All-Big West honorees—are not among them. Their spots on the line will likely be filled by JUCO transfers Abie Camacho and Will Ford.

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Replace three starters on the offensive line.
- Keep Charles Talley healthy.
- Brandon Barker must step up at quarterback.

SW LOUISIANA RAGIN' CAJUNS

COACH: Nelson Stokley, 10th year, 54-55-1

'95 RECORD: 6-5 (4-2 Big West)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Cajun Field (31,000), Lafayette, La.

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Sam Heinen, OL (1st-team All-Big West); Keno Hills, OT (1st-team All-Big West); Jeff Mitchell, DL (1st-team All-Big West); Marcus Prier, RB (2nd-team All-Big West); Tim Sensley, CB (2nd-team All-Big West); Lerodric Gilmore, S (Hon. mention All-Big West); Mike Shater, PK (Hon. mention All-Big West); Luke Yarnall, C (Hon. mention All-Big West)

RETURNING STARTERS: 15 (7 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 at Florida; S14 TEXAS A&M; S21 at Southern Miss; S28 at Louisiana Tech; O5 HOUSTON; O12 ARKANSAS STATE (HC); O19 at UAB; O26 MEMPHIS; N2 at Virginia Tech; N9 NORTHERN ILLINOIS; N16 at Texas Tech

OVERVIEW: You can't blame Southwestern Louisiana for shedding a few tears over its departure from the Big West Conference. In their three years of affiliation, the Ragin' Cajuns compiled a 14-4 record and shared two conference championships. But with the breakup of the Big West consortium during the off-season, all USL now has are fond memories and a chance to look forward to Division I-A independent status. Its transition could be made easier if the Ragin' Cajuns continue to earn rave reviews on defense, where the club ranked No. 1 in all three years as a Big West member.

"Defense has really carried us," said coach Nelson Stokley. "It's been our benchmark. But we're excited about our potential as a solid offensive team, too. You've got to have a nice blend of both to be successful."

How good was USL's defense during its final year in the Big West? Well, how about No. 1 league rankings in overall defense, passing defense and rushing defense. Expect Stokley's Stingers to be just as stingy with the return of three starters who earned All-Big West honors. Two of the all-league talents return in the secondary: Senior cornerback Britt Jackson and senior safety Damon Jackson. Inside linebacker Pat Brennan was the other first-team all-conference player. Senior defensive lineman Paul Crabble and senior outside linebacker Kelsey Dotson were second-team All-Big West selections in 1995.

On offense, opposing teams must be wondering if Jake Delhomme will ever graduate. The senior quarterback, who has started since his freshman year, is a crafty leader who threw for 2,761 yards and 20 TDs in 1995. Delhomme has two outstanding receivers in senior Donald Richard and sophomore Brandon Stokley (75 catches, 1,121 yards, 9 TDs). With fullback Kenyon Cotton returning, the Ragin' Cajuns stress a balanced attack. The 6-foot-1, 251-pound bruiser has been one of the Big West's most productive rushers over the past two seasons.

"I like the skill people we have coming back," said Stokley, whose team averaged 41.5 points in its six wins. "I am confident we can keep improving on what we did last year." ☺

GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Continue excellent defensive play of the past three years.
- Find immediate-impact players on offensive and defensive lines.
- Survive tough early schedule.

Alabama-Birmingham, Arkansas State, Central Florida and Northern Illinois team previews were written by David Seigerman. Louisiana Tech, Northeast Louisiana and Southwestern Louisiana team previews were written by O.K. Davis, the Executive Sports Editor of the Ruston (La.) Daily Leader.

BIG WEST

I-A

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

ABU WILSON, UTAH STATE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

DeShone Myles, Nevada

By MIKE PRATER

If massive off-season changes in the Big West Conference were computed into a math equation, it would read 10-7+3=6.

Ten teams called the Big West home last season, seven have left and three newcomers have reduced it to a cozy six-team conference.

The teams with tenure are Nevada, Utah State and New Mexico State. Nevada-Las Vegas and San Jose State bolted for the WAC, and Pacific dropped football because of financial problems. Consortium schools Southwestern Louisiana, Northern Illinois, Louisiana Tech and Arkansas State weren't invited back.

The new faces are Idaho and Boise State, both from the Division I-AA Big Sky, and former Division I-AA independent North Texas.

Despite the changes, one thing remains the same: Nevada, even though feisty coach Chris Ault stepped down in the spring, is the team to beat.

The mind-boggling passing combination of quarterback Mike Maxwell and wide receiver extraordinaire Alex Van Dyke is gone, as is 1,000-yard rusher Kin Minor, but the good news is that the defense returns eight of its 11 starters, including junior linebacker DeShone Myles, an All-America candidate.

ALL-BIG WEST TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	JOHN DUTTON	NEVADA	6-4/220	SOPH.
RB	ABU WILSON	UTAH STATE	6-1/207	Sr.
RB	DENVIS MARINS	NMSU	5-8/186	SOPH.
WR	DAMOND WILKINS	NEVADA	6-1/175	Sr.
WR	DUANE GREGORY	NMSU	6-1/199	Jr.
TE	BRIAN WATERS	NORTH TEXAS	6-3/235	SOPH.
OL	RICHARD ZENK	IDAHO	6-5/274	Sr.
OL	WALTER CHEEKS	BOISE STATE	6-2/270	Jr.
OL	KEELIN BOULWARE	NMSU	6-4/285	Sr.
OL	MARK ROMMEL	UTAH STATE	6-5/298	Jr.
OL	JEFF HADWICK	NEVADA	6-4/250	Sr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	RYAN PHILLIPS	IDAHO	6-4/253	Sr.
DL	BARRY MITCHELL	IDAHO	6-3/243	Sr.
DL	SIONE FIFTA	BOISE STATE	6-0/288	Sr.
DL	DANILO ROBINSON	UTAH STATE	6-1/250	Sr.
LB	DeShone MYLES	NEVADA	6-3/225	Jr.
LB	MIKE CRAWFORD	NEVADA	6-2/225	Sr.
LB	DAVID GILL	UTAH STATE	6-0/230	Sr.
DB	DARNELL HASSON	NEVADA	6-0/175	Sr.
DB	JAMES JOHNSON	NEVADA	6-0/180	Sr.
DB	SPENCER WAGGONER	UTAH STATE	5-11/196	Sr.
DB	CRAIG MILLER	UTAH STATE	5-10/187	SOPH.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	MICAH KNORR	UTAH STATE	6-1/179	Sr.
P	TOBY GOWIN	NORTH TEXAS	5-10/155	Sr.
RS	JASON BANDY	UTAH STATE	5-8/179	Sr.

1. NEVADA WOLF PACK

COACH: To be determined

'95 RECORD: 9-3 (6-0 conf., lost to Toledo, 40-37, in overtime in the Las Vegas Bowl)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Mackay Stadium (31,545), Reno, Nev.
KEY PLAYERS LOST: Alex Van Dyke, WR (2nd-team All-America); Mike Maxwell, QB (1st-team All-Big West); Kin Minor, RB (2nd-team All-Big West); Mike Rockwood, OT (1st-team All-Big West); Bob Cooper, G (1st-team All-Big West); Deron Thorp, OT (2nd-team All-Big West); Dave Miller, DL (1st-team All-Big West)

RETURNING STARTERS: 12 (2 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: S7 at Oregon; S14 MONTANA ST.; S21 at California; S28 KENT; O5 at UNLV; O12 BOISE ST.; O19 at Idaho; O26 at North Texas; N2 N. MEXICO ST. (HC); N9 at Utah St.; N16 ARKANSAS ST.

OVERVIEW: How do you fix the nation's best offense, one that lost the nation's best passer, the nation's best receiver and nearly 900 pounds of all-conference offensive linemen?

With defense, of course. Don't panic offensive-spoiled Wolf Pack fans, but defense might be the king on campus this fall.

"We're in a position where we are demanding that to happen," said Ault, who was 16-2 in his three Big West seasons.

Nevada's prolific offense, which led the nation two of the past three seasons, lost nine starters from last year's Big West championship team. That includes Maxwell (3,623 total yards, 34 TDs) and Van Dyke (1,854 yards, 16 TDs). Overall, the unit averaged 569.5 yards and 44 points a game.

The defense, which allowed a respectable 29.5 points a game in the wide-open Big West, returns eight starters, including Myles, junior tackle James Cannida, senior strong safety James Johnson and senior cornerback Darrell Hasson.

In Reno, though, all eyes are on the quarterback vacancy. It could go to sophomore Eric Bennett, who completed 59 of 99 passes for 933 yards and five TDs last season as Maxwell's backup. However, he tweaked his shoulder during spring drills in March and had arthroscopic surgery.

More than likely, the job will go to 6-4, 220-pound sophomore John Dutton, a University of Texas transfer. With Bennett sidelined, Dutton took most of the spring snaps and, according to Ault, was making "very good progress."

Senior Damond Wilkins, who caught 51 balls for 753 yards and six TDs last season, returns. He will be joined in the rebuilt receiving corps by junior-college transfers Craig Russell and Nimoy Triplett. Senior Ernie Wilson and redshirt freshman Avery Cummings will pick up the slack for Minor, who rushed for 1,052 yards. The depleted line will get a boost from Pacific transfer Jason Sadler (6-5, 275).

The Wolf Pack should be solid in the kicking game with kicker Damon Shea and punter Jason McLean returning. Shea was particularly strong, making 9 of 11 field-goal attempts and hitting 58 consecutive extra points to end the year.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. NEVADA

2. UTAH STATE

3. IDAHO

4. BOISE STATE

5. NORTH TEXAS

6. NEW MEXICO STATE

2. UTAH STATE AGGIES

COACH: John L. Smith, 2nd year, 4-7

'95 RECORD: 4-7 (4-2 conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Romney Stadium (30,257), Logan, Utah

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Kevin Alexander, WR (1st-team All-Big West)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (4 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 UTAH; S7 CS-NORTHBRIDGE; S14 at So. Miss.; S21 at Okla. St.; S28 at Texas Tech; O5 BYU; O12 at N. Mexico St.; O19 at Boise St.; O26 IDAHO (HC); N2 NORTH TEXAS; N9 NEVADA

OVERVIEW: Second-year coach John L. Smith has done two things to repair what he thought was a broken program. He weeded out a ton of "bad attitudes" and he's replaced them with 14 junior-college transfers.

"We have a solid nucleus who believes in what we're doing, and that was our biggest problem last year. I really believe in the guys we have coming back," Smith said.

Could it be enough to dethrone Nevada? It's a long shot, but the Aggies should make it interesting.

The off-season was a good one, especially concerning the news of running back Abu Wilson. As a senior last year, he rushed for 1,476 yards and 15 touchdowns, or 82 percent of the Aggies' ground game. He missed the 1993 season with a knee injury, and in January the NCAA granted him a medical hardship year.

Senior Patrick Mullins, who threw for 2,774 yards and 12 touchdowns, returns at quarterback, but the familiar faces pretty much end there. Three wide receivers and two beefy offensive linemen are part of the JUCO movement. The wideouts include speed demons Steve Smith, Nakia Jenkins and Smiley King, who can clear seven feet in the high jump. In all, 13 of the 14 transfers won't be on campus until the fall.

"It usually takes those guys four or five games to get going, and that's the scary part," Smith said.

Senior linebacker David Gill (team-best 168 tackles) and senior end Danilo Robinson (team-best 10.5 sacks) anchor a defense that has added size and strength.

"Teams won't push us around like they did a year ago," Smith said.

The secondary is thin even though all four starters return. Cornerback Craig Miller and rover Spencer Waggoner each had four picks last season and were 1-2 in the conference in return yards. Special teams will be solid with kicker Micah Knorr, punter Nathan Morreale and return specialist Jason Bandy.

Despite last season's 4-7 record, the Aggies know how to win. They won four of their last six games and are counting on more of the same this season—even though a nasty non-conference schedule could get in the way. Utah State has con-

secutive road games at Southern Mississippi, Oklahoma State and Texas Tech. The home calendar includes dates with Utah and BYU.

3. IDAHO VANDALS

COACH: Chris Tormey, 2nd year, 6-5

'95 RECORD: 6-5 (4-3 Big Sky Conf., lost to McNeese State, 33-3, in first round of the Division I-AA playoffs)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Kibbie Dome (16,000), Moscow, Idaho

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Dwight McKinzie, WR (1st-team All-Big Sky); Jim Mills, OT (2nd-team All-Big Sky); Montrell Williams, S (1st-team All-Big Sky); Dave Longoria, LB (1st-team All-Big Sky); Avery Slaughter, LB (2nd-team All-Big Sky)

RETURNING STARTERS: 11 (4 off., 7 def.)

SCHEDULE: A31 at Wyoming; S7 at San Diego St.; S14 ST. MARY'S (CALIF.); S28 at SW Texas St.; O5 CAL POLY SLO (HC); O19 NEVADA; O26 at Utah St.; N2 E. WASHINGTON; N9 NEW MEXICO ST.; N16 at North Texas; N23 at Boise St.

OVERVIEW: In 1992, Nevada moved from the Big Sky to the Big West and immediately made enemies by winning the conference championship. Idaho has an outside shot at repeating that feat—and it could start with a huge game inside its beloved dome, where the Vandals have won 13 straight. The Kibbie Dome, the only indoor facility in the conference, will host the Idaho-Nevada game Oct. 19. If the talented Vandals can win the Big West opener for both teams, who knows what might happen.

"That's a huge game for us. It's definitely a game we're pointing to," Idaho coach Chris Tormey admitted.

First things first.

UCLA transfer Ryan Fien started three of the Bruins' first four games last year before getting hurt, which led to some player-coach nastiness over the lack of playing time. Fien must learn a new system, then hope a swiss-cheese line finds a way to fill massive holes.

Guard Richard Zenk is the only returning starter, and Dan Zeamer is moving from defensive tackle to offensive tackle, where his combination of size and speed could work wonders.

A committee of returning talent and JUCO transfers will carry and catch the ball. The Vandals' most versatile player is left-handed Robert Scott (29 catches, 477 yards, 6 TDs), a former quarterback who can catch, throw and run a la Kordell Stewart.

The defensive line is solid with the return of senior end Ryan Phillips, the 1995 Big Sky Defensive Player of the Year. Phillips, a skydiver in the off-season, recorded 60 tackles and 11 sacks last season. Two of the three starters at linebacker have graduated, but a front seven that includes Phillips, 1995 second-team All-Big Sky defensive end Barry Mitchell and linebacker Jason Shelt (71 tackles) isn't too shabby.

"It's hard for me to imagine two better [defensive] ends than Ryan and Barry," Tormey said.

The secondary is a big question, but it always is in Moscow, and somehow the Vandals seem to manage. Junior Ryan McGinnis, a speedy transfer from the now-defunct Pacific program, could offer immediate help.

4. BOISE STATE BRONCOS

COACH: Pokey Allen, 4th year, 23-14; 85-40-2 overall

'95 RECORD: 7-4 (4-3 Big Sky Conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Bronco Stadium (22,600), Boise, Idaho

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Del Graven, FB (1st-team All-Big Sky); Brian Smith, LB (2nd-team All-Big Sky); Rashid Gayle, CB (1st-team All-Big Sky); Tim Foley, S (2nd-team All-Big Sky); Tony

Hilde, QB (left team)

RETURNING STARTERS: 8 (4 off., 4 def., 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 CENTRAL MICH.; S7 PORTLAND ST.; S14 E. WASHINGTON; S21 at Hawaii; S28 NW STATE; O5 at Arizona St.; O12 at Nevada; O19 UTAH ST. (HC); N2 NORTH TEXAS; N9 at New Mexico St.; N23 IDAHO

OVERVIEW: With 23 seniors graduated from last year's team, the Broncos are staring at more holes to fill than an overworked pothole crew.

This team could be solid in its first Division I-A season, but that mostly depends on quarterback Tony Hilde. The school record-holder in nearly every passing category quit the team in March, saying a rash of legal problems distracted his teammates. Without Hilde, the Broncos would have to rely on redshirt freshman Erik Davis, whose career includes a 13-for-30 performance in the team's 1995 spring game.

His backup? Redshirt freshman Bryan Harsin, a scout-team reserve and a 200-mph alcohol Funny Car driver in the summer. Senior wide receiver Ryan Ikebe (34 catches, 742 yards, 5 TDs) is the most potent weapon on offense, but Hilde is his roommate and best friend, so his focus will be closely watched.

The offensive line and backfield are loaded with a committee of returning players, but highly recruited JUCO tailback Reggie Ethridge, who piled up 1,500 yards rushing last fall, could be the biggest producer.

On defense, inside lineman Sione Fifita (54 tackles, 5 sacks), a rock-solid menace at 6-0, 288 pounds, and pass-rush whiz Chris Wing (6 sacks) anchor the line. One linebacker and all four defensive backs from last year's underachieving unit are gone.

"Secondary is going to be a major, major problem, and linebackers are going to be a concern. We'll be thin and very young," coach Pokey Allen said.

Allen is winning his battle—so far—against a rare, life-threatening tissue cancer. His team, though, could be worth a few nagging headaches.

"I think we'll compete in the Big West OK. The problem we'll have is our non-conference schedule," said Allen of the toughest schedule in school history, which includes trips to Hawaii and Arizona State.

5. NORTH TEXAS EAGLES

COACH: Matt Simon, 3rd year, 9-13-1

'95 RECORD: 2-9 (I-AA Independent)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Fouts Field (30,500), Denton, Texas

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Troy Redwine, WR (school's all-time leading receiver with 2,567 career yards); Willis Hudson, DE (school's all-time sack leader with 24)

RETURNING STARTERS: 17 (7 off., 9 def., 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: S7 ILLINOIS ST.; S14 at Arizona St.; S21 at Texas A&M; S28 ARMY; O5 at N. Illinois; O12 VANDERBILT; O19 N. MEXICO ST.; O26 NEVADA (HC); N2 at Utah St.; N9 at Boise St.; N16 IDAHO

OVERVIEW: North Texas, a Division I-AA playoff team in 1994, lost nine games in 1995 by an average of 25.6 points in its debut at the I-A level as an independent. It was a disaster the Eagles are dying to forget—even though coach Matt Simon was awarded with a new five-year contract.

They should win more than two games this season—a softer schedule will help that situation—but the school's 81st season of football won't be easy. Simon, who lost three members of his staff, has plenty of work to do even though he has 17 starters returning.

The Eagles have two quarterbacks who shared starts last season—junior Jason Mills and sophomore Josh Gulley. Mills started the first six games, then got benched in favor of Gulley, who

completed 88 of 166 passes for 1,183 yards as a true freshman.

Three wide receivers are gone, and the backfield is a question mark because of so many injuries from last season, but the offensive line is solid. Senior guard Tory Castillo, junior tackle Robert Waddle and sophomore guard Laymonde Lee are returning starters.

The defense should be fine with nine returning starters, including all three linebackers. The big hitter is senior Brett Renfro, who led the team in tackles with 86 (50 solos).

Three oft-injured defensive backs return and will be joined by three junior-college transfers: Dhati Lewis (6-2, 205), Dwyer McKeith (5-11, 160) and Ron Riley (6-4, 210). One critical area where UNT must improve is the interception ratio. UNT quarterbacks threw 27 interceptions last season, while the secondary produced only seven.

Special teams could be the Eagles' strength, and senior punter Toby Gowin could be the best in the conference. He was 19th in the nation last season with a 42.1-yard average.

6. NEW MEXICO STATE AGGIES

COACH: Jim Hess, 7th year, 21-45; 133-98-5 overall

'95 RECORD: 4-7 (3-3 conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Aggie Memorial Stadium (30,343), Las Cruces, N.M.

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Heath Hoedje, C (1st-team All-Big West); Lucious Davis, WR (2nd-team All-Big West); Sam Manuel, DL (1st-team All-Big West); Sean Manuel, TE (2nd-team All-Big West); Cedric Walton, S, (2nd-team All-Big West); Cody Ledbetter, QB (2nd-team All-Big West); Chad Zecha, P (2nd-team All-Big West)

RETURNING STARTERS: 11 (4 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 NEW MEXICO; S7 at Texas; S14 at UTEP; S21 CS-NORTHridge; S28 at LSU; O12 UTAH ST.; O19 at North Texas; O26 S. UTAH (HC); N2 at Nevada; N9 at Idaho; N16 BOISE ST.

OVERVIEW: Coach Jim Hess is a good-ol' boy who knows the difference between good and bad football, which will help because his team has both qualities.

"Last year we were good on offense and horrible on defense," he admitted.

Hess might be looking at the same problems this year, and the offense might not even be that good if 6-7 sophomore Chad Salisbury doesn't develop at quarterback. The kid from Pennsylvania was 1 of 1 for 39 yards last year as the backup to throwing whiz Cody Ledbetter, who left as the school's all-time leader in TD passes (55), passing yards (7,480) and total offense (8,207). The one knock on Salisbury is his mobility, but "he's deceptive because he's so tall. In time, he'll be a fine quarterback," Hess said.

The two offensive players the Aggies can count on are sophomore running back Denvis Manns and junior wide receiver Duane Gregory. Manns was the nation's top freshman running back, rushing for 1,120 yards and seven touchdowns. Gregory caught 50 passes for 844 yards and six scores.

Defensively, the Aggies could be a punching bag for a lot of high-powered offenses. Junior linebacker Gary Jessie, the team's leading tackler last season (89), could be the marquee player. Two other starting linebackers also return, but all three could find themselves as backups this fall.

"I have the most puzzling of teams. I really don't know what they're going to do," Hess said. "If we can improve our defense, we'll be decent!"

Mike Prater is the sports columnist for the Idaho Statesman.

CONFERENCE USA I-A

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

CHUCK CLEMENTS, HOUSTON

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

TYRUS MCCLLOUD, LOUISVILLE

By RICK BOZICH

Say hello to the new kid on the blocking sled. You were introduced to Conference USA last winter, when it sent four basketball teams into the NCAA Tournament and made quite a stir during its first year of dribbling.

C-USA is smaller for football than for basketball—six teams compared to 12—but tougher to figure. None of these teams are regular participants in New Year's Day festivities, and only Southern Mississippi and Louisville have been consistent winners during this decade.

Playing for a conference title, as well as a spot in the Liberty Bowl, is supposed to change that. Each school is committed to football. And three teams—Houston in the Astrodome, Tulane in the Superdome and Memphis in the Liberty Bowl—play at three of the most well-known football addresses in America.

But the team that plays in the smallest stadium, Southern Mississippi, has the strongest football tradition. In the 1990s, the Golden Eagles have defeated Auburn twice and Alabama once. They schedule big-time, think big-time and have produced big-time players like Brett Favre, Ray Guy and Louis Lipps.

Led by junior quarterback Heath Graham, senior wide receiver Ryan Pearson and a crackling

defense, coach Jeff Bower's Golden Eagles are the team to beat for the first Conference USA title.

1. SOUTHERN MISS. GOLDEN EAGLES

COACH: Jeff Bower, 6th year, 25-30-1

'95 RECORD: 6-5, Independent

STADIUM/LOCATION: M.M. Roberts Stadium (33,000), Hattiesburg, Miss.

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Chris Buckhalter, HB (1st-Team All-C-USA); Fred Brock, WR (1st-Team All-C-USA); Chris Pierce, PK-P (1st-Team All-C-USA); Tim Bell, DE (1st-Team All-C-USA)

RETURNING STARTERS: 16 (9 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 at Georgia; S7 at Alabama; S14 UTAH ST.; S21 SW LOUISIANA; S28 at Louisville; O10 at E. Carolina; O19 MEMPHIS; O26 at Tulane; N2 CINCINNATI (HC); N9 at Houston; N16 at Florida St.

OVERVIEW: Long considered one of the most powerful independent teams in the South, Southern Mississippi appears more excited than any team in the league about the opportunity to compete for a league championship and a bowl bid.

"For the first time, we are going to have the opportunity to play for something—a conference championship," Bower said. "We want to win [the title], and we want to be willing to pay the price and make the sacrifices to win."

This is a team that figures to move the football. Graham threw for 15 touchdowns last season and is on target to challenge nearly all of Favre's school records. And Graham's favorite target, Pearson (32 catches, 392 yards in 1995), needs only eight receptions and 505 yards to become USM's all-time leader in both categories.

Although Bower will miss halfback Chris Buckhalter, he expects juniors Eric Booth (457 yards, 3 TDs) and Harold Shaw (295 yards, 1 TD) to bring the Golden Eagles a dependable running attack. Inexperience along the offensive line doesn't have Bower too concerned.

"We have more talent in the offensive line than we have had since I have been here," Bower said.

Defensively, the Golden Eagles have always been an aggressive group—and that will not change. Bower moved senior Cedric Walthaw from linebacker to defensive end during spring drills to take advantage of his talents rushing the quarterback. Plus, that clears linebacker Marchant Kenney, who finished third in tackles with 93 last season, for full-time work at inside linebacker. But while the Golden Eagles have solid cornerstones at each position, depth is a concern along the line and at linebacker.

The secondary is paced by senior Rod Thomas (3 INTs), the son of former NFL player Norris Thomas.

Nothing is as critical for the Golden Eagles as the schedule. They open on the road at Georgia and Alabama before returning for their home opener against Utah State. After playing five league games over the subsequent eight weeks, Bower must take his team to Florida State for the season finale.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

2. LOUISVILLE

3. CINCINNATI

4. MEMPHIS

5. HOUSTON

6. TULANE

2. LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

COACH: Ron Cooper, 2nd year, 7-4; 16-17 overall

'95 RECORD: 7-4, Independent

STADIUM/LOCATION: Cardinal Stadium (35,500), Louisville, Ky.

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Marty Lowe, QB (1st-Team All C-USA); Calvin Arrington, HB (1st-Team All-C-USA); Roman Oben, OT, (1st-Team All-C-USA); Jason Stinson, C (1st-Team All-C-USA); Alan Campos LB (1st-Team All-C-USA)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (5 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 at Kentucky; S7 at Penn St.; S14 BAYLOR; S21 at Michigan St.; S28 SOUTHERN MISS.; O12 at Tulane; O19 N. ILLINOIS (HC); O26 CINCINNATI; N2 MEMPHIS; N9 at N. Carolina; N16 at Houston

OVERVIEW: Last year, Ron Cooper answered the most difficult question: Could he replace the imposing Howard Schnellenberger as the Cardinals' head football coach?

The Cardinals rolled to four consecutive victories down the stretch, including a 31-0 win over Maryland, to finish the season 7-4, one game better than Schnellenberger did in his final season. Now, Cooper faces a more intriguing question: Can he replace 10 talented starters, survive trips to Penn State, Michigan State and North Carolina and build on the momentum of his first season?

First, Cooper will have to settle on a quarterback. Junior Jason Payne (15-of-33 passing for 164 yards, no TDs and 3 INTs) figures to have first crack at the job. But Chris Redman, a redshirt freshman who was a first-team prep All America at Louisville Male High in 1994, was impressive this spring and is waiting if Payne does not deliver.

Cooper must also rebuild his running game because the Cardinals lost Calvin Arrington (1,016 yards) and three starting offensive linemen. There is reason for optimism, though. Sophomore Frank Moreau gained 416 yards in only six games as a backup. And Donnell Gordon, a transfer from Kentucky, arrives to provide breakaway speed.

Defense is Cooper's specialty. It will also be this team's specialty. Linebacker Tyrus McCloud returns after being voted C-USA Defensive Player of the Year. But McCloud, who is one of just eight active players in college football to total 250 or more tackles in the past two seasons, will have a tough time repeating. Keep one eye on the defensive line. Leland Taylor, a 6-foot-4, 310-pound defensive lineman, arrives from Tennessee, where he was a two-year starter. And all cornerback Sam Madison did last year was intercept seven passes and recover three fumbles.

"Our defense can be better this year than it was last year," Cooper said.

It had better be. The Cardinals open the season by playing three of their first four games on the road—at Kentucky, Penn State and Michigan State.

ALL-CONFERENCE USA TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	CHUCK CLEMENTS	HOUSTON	6-3/200	Sr.
RB	ORLANDO SMITH	CINCINNATI	6-1/245	Jr.
RB	JAMAIKAN DARTZ	TULANE	5-7/187	Soph.
WR	MIGUEL MONTANO	LOUISVILLE	5-10/181	Jr.
WR	ROBERT TATE	CINCINNATI	5-10/190	Sr.
TE	CORY GEASON	TULANE	6-4/245	Jr.
OL	JASON FABINI	CINCINNATI	6-7/300	Jr.
OL	CYRIL BROCKMEIER	TULANE	6-7/304	Sr.
OL	MARCUS SPRIGGS	HOUSTON	6-3/295	Sr.
OL	DARRYL TERRELL	SOUTHERN MISS.	6-5/310	Sr.
OL	KEN NEWTON	MEMPHIS	6-3/290	Sr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DE	KENDRICK GHOLSTON	LOUISVILLE	6-3/249	Jr.
DT	DARRIUS FELDER	CINCINNATI	6-5/269	Sr.
DT	TONY WILLIAMS	MEMPHIS	6-2/266	Sr.
DE	ROBERT BROWN	SOUTHERN MISS.	6-2/245	Jr.
LB	TYRUS MCCLLOUD	LOUISVILLE	6-2/251	Sr.
LB	BRAD JACKSON	CINCINNATI	6-2/205	Jr.
LB	MIKE PARKER	HOUSTON	6-1/216	Jr.
DB	SAM MADISON	LOUISVILLE	5-11/174	Sr.
DB	SAM GARNES	CINCINNATI	6-4/215	Sr.
DB	ROD THOMAS	SOUTHERN MISS.	6-2/175	Sr.
DB	RICO CLARK	LOUISVILLE	5-10/178	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	ERIC RICHARDS	CINCINNATI	5-8/160	Jr.
P	STEVE SMITH	CINCINNATI	5-9/164	Sr.
RS	ROBERT TATE	CINCINNATI	5-10/190	Sr.

3. CINCINNATI BEARCATS

COACH: Rick Minter, 3rd year 8-13-1

'95 RECORD: 6-5, Independent

STADIUM/LOCATION: Nippert Stadium (36,000), Cincinnati, Ohio

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Orlando Smith, TB, (2nd-Team All-C-USA); Jamie Lemire, C, (2nd-Team All-C-USA); Muhammed El-Mubarak, LB, (2nd-Team All-C-USA)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14; (5 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)
SCHEDULE: A31 TULANE; S7 KENTUCKY; S14 at Kansas St.; S28 MIAMI (OHIO); O5 at Memphis; O12 BOSTON COLL.; O19 HOUSTON (HC); O26 at Louisville; N2 at Southern Miss.; N16 at UAB; N23 NE LOUISIANA

OVERVIEW: If you're looking for a sleeper in the league race, try Cincinnati. The Bearcats' 6-5 record last season might not have dazzled the bowl scouts, but it should be remembered that Cincinnati played five games against bowl teams—and won two of them. And, after losing to Cincinnati, neither Virginia Tech nor East Carolina lost another game.

Now Minter, a former assistant to Lou Holtz at Notre Dame, continues the quest to bring UC its first back-to-back winning seasons in 14 years. There is reason for optimism. Senior wide receiver and return specialist Robert Tate was picked as the best offensive player in the league last season, and quarterback Chad Plummer looked like a talented runner/thrower as a reserve.

Tate (5-10, 190) led the nation in kickoff returns, averaging 34.3 yards on 15 kickoffs, while taking one for a touchdown. Tate broke the school record for all-purpose yards in a game with 333 against Kansas. Plummer, a 6-4 sophomore, completed 25 of 47 passes for 439 yards and should be able to deliver the ball to Tate.

Nobody knows the importance of building a running game better than Minter. Over Cincinnati's last 12 games, the Bearcats are 7-0 in games in which they rushed for at least 100 yards and 0-5 in games in which they didn't.

Defensively, Minter has similar work to do. A defense that ranked in the top 42 nationally in all five team categories must replace five starters. Watch for linebackers Phillip Curry (124 tackles) and Brad Jackson (100 tackles), as well as free safety Sam Gaines (100 tackles, 6 INTs) to lead the improvement.

"We're not looking for a lot of answers," Minter said. "We're simply trying to figure out how we can be better than we were last year."

4. MEMPHIS TIGERS

COACH: Rip Scherer, 2nd year, 3-8

'95 RECORD: 3-8, Independent

STADIUM/LOCATION: Liberty Bowl (62,380), Memphis, Tenn.

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Bryan Barnett, LB (1st-Team All-C-USA); Jerome Woods, DB, (1st-Team All-C-USA)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14; (6 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 MIAMI (FLA.); S7 MISS. ST.; S14 at Missouri; S21 TULANE; O5 CINCINNATI (HC); O12 at Houston; O19 at Southern Miss.; O26 at SW Louisiana; N2 at Louisville; N9 TENNESSEE; N23 E. CAROLINA

OVERVIEW: Hang on to the football. Sounds simple. But that is precisely what Rip Scherer needs his team to learn. An impossible schedule, which included Michigan, Arkansas and East Carolina, and an astounding 35 turnovers cost the Tigers last season.

Those, plus the absence of a running game. Memphis has gone 14 consecutive games without having a running back rush for 100 yards, and the Tigers failed to have a running

back score a rushing touchdown in their final seven games of the 1995 season.

Qadry Anderson gives Scherer versatility at quarterback. After losing the starting job in the season opener due to a shoulder injury, Anderson returned to throw for 490 yards and run for two touchdowns.

Scherer hopes that Chris Reeves, a converted linebacker, delivers stability at fullback. And look for sophomore Shaun Sands, the brother of former Kansas star tailback Tony Sands and nephew of Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin, to emerge at tailback. None of the returning receivers caught more than 18 passes last season.

Defense must win games for Memphis. Free safety Keith Spann is a nasty hitter who intercepted three passes and broke up six. Defensive tackle Tony Williams has been a dependable performer for three seasons, and linebacker Richard Hogans was twice named C-USA Defensive Player of the Week while finishing second on the team with 111 tackles.

5. HOUSTON COUGARS

COACH: Kim Helton, 4th year, 4-28-1

'95 RECORD: 2-9 (2-5 Southwest Conference)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Astrodome (60,000), Houston, Texas

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Jimmy Herndon, OT (1st-Team All-SWC); Dedric Mathis, CB (1st-Team All-SWC)

RETURNING STARTERS: 18 (8 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 SAM HOUSTON ST.; S7 at LSU; S14 at Pittsburgh; S21 USC; O5 at SW Louisiana; O12 MEMPHIS; O19 at Cincinnati; O26 N. CAROLINA; N2 at Tulane; N9 SOUTHERN MISS. (HC); N16 LOUISVILLE

OVERVIEW: For the second consecutive season, the Cougars anticipate doubling their victory total. And after improving from one win in 1994 to two victories last fall, coach Kim Helton would not be shocked if Houston won more than four games for the first time since 1990.

"Last year, we went through a season with the same offense for the first time since I've been here," Helton said. "The quarterback didn't get

hurt and we had the pieces in place all season. The receiving corps is capable. They need to make things happen for us."

The guy who will make the most things happen is quarterback Chuck Clements. It doesn't matter if the senior is playing in C-USA, the Southwest Conference or the Big East—this guy can throw the football. He did it well last year, completing 245-of-437 passes for 2,641 yards and 15 touchdowns. He comes from great quarterbacking stock, too; his father, Joe, played the position at Texas, and his brother Steve played it at BYU.

Receiver Damion Johnson (31 catches) is a poised playmaker who scored three touchdowns. Charles West (50 catches) gives Clements another senior target.

Unfortunately, the running game is not as imposing. Seniors Antowain Smith and Jermaine Williams will work behind a rebuilt line. Watch for Williams to emerge. After leading the team in rushing in 1994, Williams battled a series of injuries last season and was limited to 52 carries.

Defensively, Helton must replace three players in the secondary. JUCO transfer Vaughn Washington looked solid in spring practice at linebacker. He should help Mike Parker, who led the team in tackles the last two seasons. Senior nose tackle Gary Haynes is 6-foot, 300 pounds and immovable.

6. TULANE GREEN WAVE

COACH: Buddy Teevens, 5th year, 9-36

'95 RECORD: 2-9, Independent

STADIUM/LOCATION: Superdome (70,892), New Orleans, La.

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Steve Schuler, OT (1st-Team All-C-USA); Cedric Anderson, CB (2nd-Team All-C-USA)

RETURNING STARTERS: 19 (10 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 at Cincinnati; S14 RICE; S21 at Memphis; O5 TCU; O12 LOUISVILLE (HC); O19 at Army; O26 SOUTHERN MISS.; N2 HOUSTON; N9 SYRACUSE; N16 at Navy; N23 at LSU

OVERVIEW: This is the season Buddy Teevens has been waiting for since arriving from Dartmouth five years ago. With 21 seniors and an experienced quarterback, the Green Wave is thinking of a winning season for the first time since 1981. Although Tulane finished last season with eight consecutive defeats, four of the losses were by less than a touchdown. And in each of those four games, Tulane had a chance to win on its final possession.

"We need to be more productive in all facets of our offense and try to keep people off balance," Teevens said. "Defensively, we have a lot of experience returning. We need to pressure the quarterback more effectively and create more turnover situations."

Turnovers were an area where Tulane showed the most improvement last season, going from a minus-23 (worst in the nation in 1994) to a minus-4. But Teevens believes his team can do even better.

Linebacker Derrick Singleton is a relentless hitter who led the team with 126 tackles, 40 more than any of his teammates. Junior linebacker Brian Williams contributed 10 tackles for a loss.

Offensively, Tulane must improve its running game. The Wave barely averaged more than 100 yards per game (104) on the ground. Most of those yards came from Jamaican Dartez, an elusive 5-7, 187-pound sophomore who has to run outside the tackles.

Quarterback Shaun King was pushed into the starting lineup as a true freshman for the final six games when starter Aley Demarest injured his knee. King completed 46 percent of his passes, but he could only get the Wave into the end zone twice.

Rick Bozich covers Conference USA football for the Louisville Courier-Journal.



Junior defensive end Kendrick Gholston could be Conference USA's sack king this season after getting eight a year ago.

MARK S. LYNCH/LOUISVILLE

MID-AMERICAN

I-A

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

WASEAN TAIT, TOLEDO

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

DEE OSBORNE, MIAMI (OHIO)

By DAVE HACKENBERG

It has been a long while since one player did for his team and conference what Toledo tailback Wasean Tait did last season.

The Mid-American Conference, one of the more obscure in Division I-A, was thrust into the national spotlight as Tait ran up impressive statistics, leading the Rockets to an undefeated season—Nebraska was the only other I-A team to finish without a loss. Tait also scored the winning touchdown in the first-ever I-A overtime bowl game as UT defeated Nevada, 40-37, in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Can Tait, a solid 5-foot-8, 175-pounder, duplicate last year's numbers? He was second in the nation in rushing (173.2 ypg.), third in all-purpose yardage (189.8 ypg.) and third in scoring (10.9 ppg.).

"I said it from the moment we signed him, he's special," Toledo coach Gary Pinkel said. "I thought our team and the MAC gained recognition from our being undefeated and nationally ranked. Plus, Wasean's national statistics gained some attention. Then, the big thing, was putting all of that together on national TV in a bowl game."

"I think people watched him score four touchdowns in that game and realized how good this guy was, that he could play anywhere in the country. He's certainly helped the league's image."

ALL-MID-AMERICAN TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	CHARLIE BATCHE	E. MICHIGAN	6-2/210	Sr.
RB	WASEAN TAIT	TOLEDO	5-8/175	Sr.
RB	ASTRON WHITLEY	KENT	5-8/181	Jr.
WR	TONY KNOX	W. MICHIGAN	5-9/170	Sr.
WR	TREMAINE BANKS	MIAMI (OHIO)	5-10/180	Sr.
TE	JIM HOLLAND	W. MICHIGAN	6-5/243	Sr.
OL	MIKE BIRD	MIAMI (OHIO)	6-2/295	Jr.
OL	TONY ROUSH	BALL STATE	6-3/305	Sr.
OL	JOE LEWANDOWSKI	W. MICHIGAN	6-2/285	Jr.
OL	SCOTT REHBERG	CENT. MICHIGAN	6-8/320	Sr.
OL	STEVE ZAHURSKY	KENT	6-6/277	Jr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	JASON HOLMES	MIAMI (OHIO)	6-3/251	Sr.
DL	CHRIS RAWSON	W. MICHIGAN	6-4/255	Sr.
DL	JASON RICHARDS	TOLEDO	6-4/250	Jr.
DL	DAMON HUMMEL	BALL STATE	6-4/237	Soph.
LB	DEE OSBORNE	MIAMI (OHIO)	6-2/215	Sr.
LB	KEVIN O'NEILL	BOWLING GREEN	6-1/200	Jr.
LB	KENYON HARPER	MIAMI (OHIO)	6-3/225	Sr.
DB	CORY GILLIARD	BALL STATE	6-1/204	Sr.
DB	QUINCY WRIGHT	CENT. MICHIGAN	6-0/190	Sr.
DB	JAMIE TAYLOR	MIAMI (OHIO)	5-9/170	Jr.
DB	CRAIG DUES	TOLEDO	6-0/188	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	JUSTIN VENTURA	E. MICHIGAN	5-10/165	Soph.
P	BRAD MAYNARD	BALL STATE	6-1/175	Sr.
RS	COURTNEY DAVIS	BOWLING GREEN	5-7/185	Sr.

1. TOLEDO ROCKETS

COACH: Gary Pinkel, 6th year, 34-19-3

'95 RECORD: 11-0-1 (7-0-1 conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Glass Bowl (26,248), Toledo, Ohio

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Steve Rosi, TE (1st-team All-MAC); Jamal Belt, DB (1st-team All-MAC); Steve Haynes, DE (1st-team All-MAC)

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (6 off, 7 def, 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: S7 INDIANA; S14 at Akron; S21 at E. Michigan; S28 WEBER ST.; O5 BOWLING GREEN; O19 at Louisiana Tech; O26 W. MICHIGAN (HC); N2 MIAMI (OHIO); N9 CENTRAL MICH.; N16 at Ball St.; N23 at Ohio

OVERVIEW: It is a tribute to Tait that the Rockets are picked to win the MAC again in 1996. Toledo lost three all-league starters and has one of the smaller groups of returning starters among the 10 league schools. And few of them show up on the preseason all-conference team.

Of course, it was no different a year ago, when Tait rushed for 1,905 yards and the Rockets averaged 416 yards of offense per game only to have no offensive linemen named to the all-league first team.

Pinkel, who thought the all-league voting was a joke, called it "the no-name line." This year, call it a rebuilt line after the loss of five starters, including leading receiver Steve Rosi, the tight end.

"Obviously, that's the area of our greatest concern," Pinkel said. "But we feel we have some outstanding players who saw a lot of action last year in backup roles and are ready to step in."

If that's the case, Tait and senior quarterback Ryan Huzjak could again have banner years. Huzjak, a two-way threat as a passer (4,614 career yards) and runner (1,216 career yards), makes few mistakes. A year ago, he passed for 15 touchdowns against only five interceptions.

Pinkel expects his defense to shine this season behind lineman Jason Richards, linebackers Jamie Johnson and Marcus Matthews, multi-purpose all-conference defender Craig Dues and secondary stars Clarence Love and Mark Herron.

2. MIAMI (OHIO) REDSKINS

COACH: Randy Walker, 7th year, 34-27-5

'95 RECORD: 8-1-1 (6-1-1 conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Yager Stadium (30,000), Oxford, Ohio

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Deland McCullough, TB (1st-team All-MAC); Johnnie Williams, FS (MAC Defensive Player of Year)

RETURNING STARTERS: 17 (8 off, 8 def, 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 KENT; S7 at Ball St.; S14 at Indiana; S21 BOWLING GREEN; S28 at Cincinnati; O5 CENTRAL MICH.; O12 at E. Michigan; O19 at Akron; O26 ARMY (HC); N2 at Toledo; N9 OHIO

OVERVIEW: If you like to spell defense with a capital D, Miami is the place to be. Four of the top players return from a crew that ranked second in the nation in total defense, first in passing efficiency defense and seventh in scoring defense. The Redskins allowed just 251.6 yards per game and 2.8 yards per rush.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. TOLEDO
2. MIAMI (OHIO)
3. BALL STATE
4. EASTERN MICHIGAN
5. BOWLING GREEN
6. WESTERN MICHIGAN
7. CENTRAL MICHIGAN
8. AKRON
9. OHIO
10. KENT

Linebacker Dee Osborne led the team in tackles with 126, including 10 behind the line of scrimmage, and he has the opportunity to be the first player to make the All-MAC first team all four years. Fellow LB Kenyon Harper was in on 97 stops, defensive back Jamie Taylor made 52 tackles and five interceptions and lineman Jason Holmes recorded 44 tackles. Also contributing was punter Jason Cheney, who backed teams up by averaging 40.9 yards per kick.

On the other side of the ball, Sam Ricketts (14 TDs, 7 INTs) returns at quarterback, and Ty King, who rushed for 470 yards, takes over as the full-time tailback. Top receiver Tremayne Banks (44 catches, 733 yards) is also back.

Miami gained fame a year ago as the only team to defeat Northwestern during the regular season, but the Redskins were tripped up by MAC foe Ball State and saw their title hopes erased in a 28-28 tie against league champ Toledo.

3. BALL STATE CARDINALS

COACH: Bill Lynch, 2nd year, 7-4

'95 RECORD: 7-4 (6-2 conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Ball State Stadium (21,581), Muncie, Ind.

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Keith McKenzie, DL (1st-team All-MAC); Jermaine Daniels, DL

RETURNING STARTERS: 19 (9 off, 8 def, 2 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 at Kansas; S7 MIAMI (OHIO); S14 at Minn.-Minneapolis; S21 CENTRAL FLA.; O5 at W. Michigan; O12 OHIO (HC); O19 at Bowling Green; O26 at Central Mich.; N2 at E. Michigan; N9 KENT; N16 TOLEDO

OVERVIEW: Ball State is one of the MAC's best-kept secrets, with the league's top record (18-5-2, .760) over the past three seasons.

But Brad Maynard is no secret after being named to seven All-America teams last season. Now a senior, he led the nation in punting average with 46.5 yards per kick. Out of 66 punts, Maynard pinned the opposition inside the 20-yard line 31 times. He enters the season with a 43.7-yard career average and is chasing Ray Guy's NCAA career mark of 44.7 yards.

If Maynard wasn't enough, the Cardinals also return their top seven rushers, their top 10 receivers and their top three leading tacklers.

Two-year starter Brent Baldwin returns at quarterback and will work with one of the MAC's top runners in Michael Blair and standout offensive lineman Tony Roush, a 305-pounder. The defense is solid with corner Cory Gilliard, linebacker Howard Simms, end Brian Williams and lineman Damon Hummel, a 6-4, 237-pound sophomore who might prove to be one of the league's best ever.

"We made steady progress in all areas last season," second-year coach Bill Lynch said. "With the same kind of progress, we believe the '96 team can be of championship caliber."

4. EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES

COACH: Rick Rasnick, 2nd year, 6-5

'95 RECORD: 6-5 (5-3 conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Rynearson Stadium (30,200), Ypsilanti, Mich.

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Steve Clay, WR-KR (1st-team All-MAC); Barry Stokes, OT (1st-team All-MAC); Bristol Greene, WR

RETURNING STARTERS: 11 (6 off., 4 def., 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 TEMPLE; S7 at Wisconsin; S14 at W. Michigan; S21 TOLEDO; S28 at Michigan St.; O5 at Ohio; O12 MIAMI (OHIO); O19 at Central Mich.; O26 KENT (HC); N2 BALL ST.; N9 AKRON

OVERVIEW: The Eagles had the most explosive offense in the MAC last year and quarterback Charlie Batch, who set 12 school records, returns. He completed 244 of 421 passes for 3,177 yards and 21 touchdowns.

Gone, however, are his top two receivers, including unanimous all-league pick Steve Clay, who caught 63 passes for 999 yards and 7 touchdowns.

Junior Savon Edwards is a versatile tailback who rushed for 732 yards and caught passes worth

another 432 yards. Junior fullback Mike Scott gives the Eagles' full-house lots of punch after running for 418 yards last season. Another offensive weapon is sophomore kicker Justin Ventura, who made 36 of 40 extra points and 11 of 14 field goals.

Defense was not an EMU strong point a year ago—the Eagles surrendered an average of 400 yards and 30 points per game—but it does have a top linebacker in Avery Brown, who was in on 110 tackles and had a school-record 10 sacks.

5. BOWLING GREEN FALCONS

COACH: Gary Blackney, 6th season, 41-14-2

'95 RECORD: 5-6 (3-5 conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Doyt Perry Field (30,599), Bowling Green, Ohio

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Chad Bukey, OT (1st-team All-MAC); Derek Schorejs, PK (1st-team All-MAC); Jason Woullard, LB (1st-team All-MAC); Greg Cepek, DL (1st-team All-MAC); Ryan Henry, QB; Cal Bowers, C

RETURNING STARTERS: 15 (7 Off., 8 Def.)

SCHEDULE: A31 at Alabama; S14 TEMPLE; S21 at Miami (Ohio); S28 CENTRAL MICH.; O5 at Toledo; O12 KENT (HC);

O19 BALL ST.; O26 at Ohio; N2 at Akron; N9 W. MICHIGAN; N16 at Central Florida.

OVERVIEW: Coach Gary Blackney must still be shaking his head over last season. Bowling Green was the overwhelming preseason favorite to win the MAC title and even Blackney suggested it might be his best-ever team, ahead of those that posted back-to-back undefeated MAC seasons in 1991 and '92.

Instead, the Falcons went 3-5 in league play with the five losses coming in succession.

Most disappointing of all was the passing game, where senior Ryan Henry slumped, got injured and eventually lost his job.

With the injuries to Henry, sophomore quarterback Bob Niemet (733 yards, 4 TDs, 8 INTs) wet his feet, starting four games late in the year. And the Falcons coach bolstered the receiving corps with a pair of junior-college recruits to team with split end Eric Starks, who caught 32 passes.

Returning tailbacks Keylan Cates and Courtney Davis combined for more than 1,000 yards last season, but BG must retool its offensive line around John Kuck, a 6-4, 265-pound junior.

The Falcons return one of the league's premier linebackers in 6-1, 200-pound junior Kevin O'Neill, who led the team with 134 tackles. Joining O'Neill is Adam Lige (84 tackles).

6. WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS

COACH: Al Molde, 10th year, 60-38-2; 158-41-8 overall

'95 RECORD: 7-4 (6-2 conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Waldo Stadium (30,100), Kalamazoo, Mich.

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Andre Vaughn, LB (1st-team All-MAC); Tristan Moss, DB (1st-team All-MAC); Dion Powell, DT (1st-team All-MAC); Jay McDonagh, QB; Jim Vackara, RB; Dean Polce, LB; Rick Kaiser, DL

RETURNING STARTERS: 10 (5 off., 4 def., 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A29 E. ILLINOIS; S7 at West Virginia; S14 E. MICHIGAN; S21 at Central Michigan; S28 at Akron; O5 BALL ST. (HC); O12 at Wyoming; O26 at Toledo; N2 OHIO; N9 at Bowling Green; N16 KENT

OVERVIEW: What does a coach do when he loses his record-setting quarterback, his top running back, two premier linebackers, the best defensive lineman and an all-conference defensive back?

"Pray a lot," coach Al Molde answered.

And, so far, the veteran Bronco coach isn't sure anybody is listening.

"We have far more question marks than we've had in previous seasons," he said. "We have a big job in front of us, especially on the offensive side."

Finding a replacement for quarterback Jay McDonagh—there are four candidates—and filling three holes on the offensive line are WMU's top priority. The only proven returnee along the line is a good one in 280-pound Joe Lewandowski. Running back Bruno Heppell, all-league wide receiver Tony Knox and tight end Jim Holland give the Broncos some building blocks at the skill positions.

Depth will be a problem on defense, but Molde said, "We feel we have a chance to be good, especially along the defensive front."

Chris Rawson is a top-flight defensive lineman, and Rick Lucas anchors the linebacking corps.

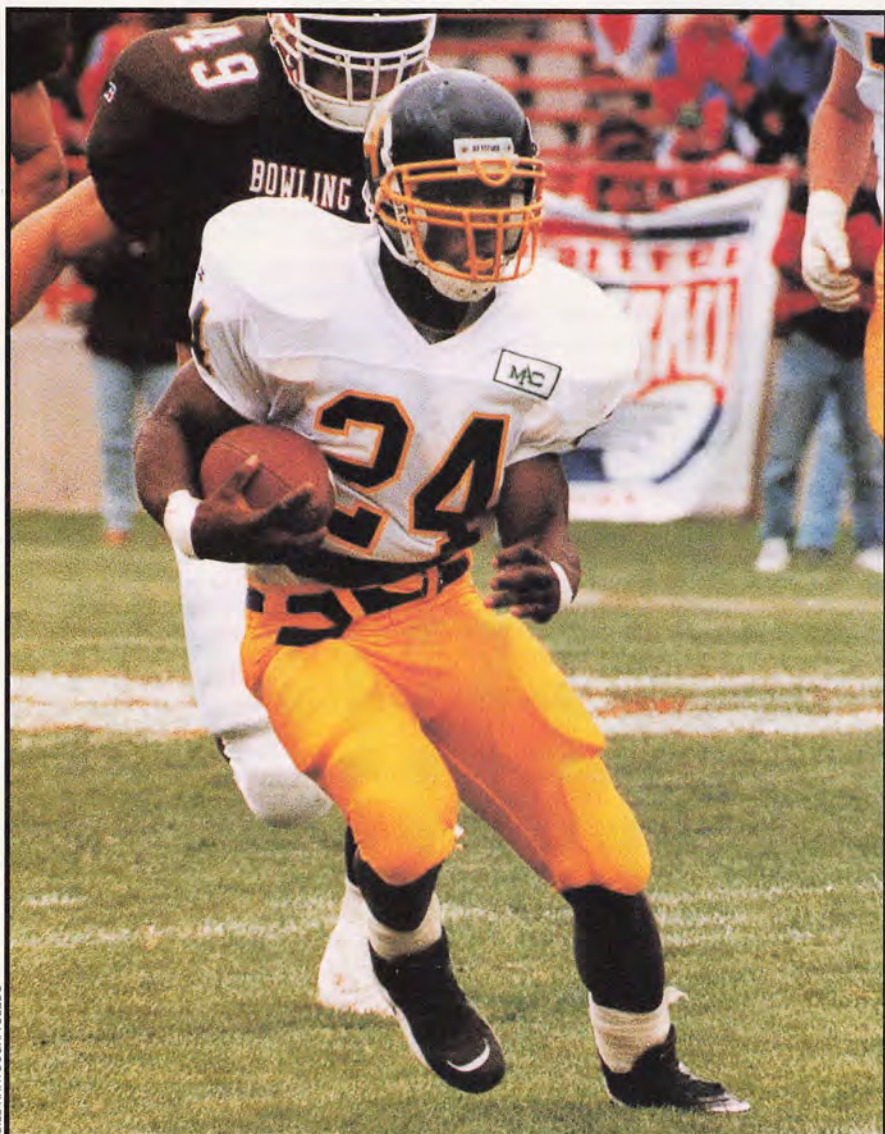
7. CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS

COACH: Dick Flynn, 3rd year, 13-10

'95 RECORD: 4-7 (2-6 conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Kelly/Shorts Stadium (20,086), Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Brock Gutierrez, C (1st-team All-MAC); Bryan Carpenter, OG (2nd-team All-MAC)



Toledo tailback Wasean Tait finished second in the nation in rushing (173.2 ypg.) and third in all-purpose yardage (189.8 ypg.) and scoring (10.9 ppg.) last season for the Rockets.

BILL HARTOUGH/TOLEDO

MID-AMERICAN

RETURNING STARTERS: 17 (8 off., 9 def.)

SCHEDULE: A31 at Boise St.; S7 at Virginia; S14 LOUISIANA TECH; S21 W. MICHIGAN; S28 at Bowling Green; O5 at Miami (Ohio); O12 AKRON (HC); O19 E. MICHIGAN; O26 BALL ST.; N2 at Kent; N9 at Toledo

OVERVIEW: The Chippewas carry a four-game losing streak into the 1996 season, one reason the defending champions fell to seventh place last year.

It was a tale of two seasons, as defense let the Chips down early before the offense went into hiding down the stretch. That despite the performance of tailback Silas Massey, who won MAC Freshman of the Year honors by carrying 225 times for 1,089 yards.

Massey accomplished that in less than a full season at the position, and more good things are expected of him as he camps behind 6-8, 320-pound Scott Rehberg and 290-pound Gary Glowacki, two tackles who gained valuable experience a year ago.

The Chippewas defense will try to allow fewer than the 375 yards and 25 points per game it surrendered a year ago, and it has a kingpin to build around in two-time All-MAC free safety Quincy Wright. The 6-0, 190-pounder was in on 124 tackles and made three interceptions last year.

"We're looking forward to the season because we return a lot of players with experience," coach Dick Flynn said. "The big question is how far they have come since last fall. We'll have a lot of sophomores on the club who will see considerable action."

8. AKRON ZIPS

COACH: Lee Owens, 2nd year, 2-9

'95 RECORD: 2-9 (2-7 conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Rubber Bowl (35,202), Akron, Ohio

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Lew Lawhorn, WR-KR; Jazet Jakob, K

RETURNING STARTERS: 21 (10 off., 10 def., 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A29 at Ohio; S7 VIRGINIA TECH; S14 TOLEDO; S21 at Illinois; S28 W. MICHIGAN; O5 at Kent; O12 at Central Mich.; O19 MIAMI (OHIO) (HC); O26 at N. Illinois; N2 BOWLING GREEN; N9 at E. Michigan

OVERVIEW: It's that old question about the cup. Is it half full or half empty? Akron returns starters on each side of the ball. But they're the same 21 starters who went 2-9 a year ago.

Of course, that was the Zips' first season under a new coaching staff, and head man Lee Owens expects drastic improvement.

"All of our returning players gained valuable experience last season, plus we were able to red-shirt 22 freshmen," Owens said.

The Zips will build around defense and have a dandy in senior linebacker Jason Taylor (6-5, 230), who made 70 primary hits a year ago and was in on 99 total tackles.

Senior strong safety John Harpring brings more experience to the defense, while the offense will continue to build around talented senior tackle Brian Gabrieheski (6-5, 260), sophomore center Bill Hildebrand (6-5, 310), junior tailback Terrel Dixon and wide receiver Devon Scott.

Last year's group of redshirt freshmen may yield this season's starting quarterback. The incumbent is Willie Spencer, a first-team All-Ohio selection during his senior season at Massillon Washington High School.



First-team All-MAC selection Astron Whatley was one of the lone bright spots for last-place Kent last season, rushing for 978 yards.

9. OHIO BOBCATS

COACH: Jim Grobe, 2nd year, 2-8-1

'95 RECORD: 2-8-1 (1-6-1 conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Peden Stadium (20,000), Athens, Ohio

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Benny King, LB; Jabaar Thompson, LB; Damiso Johnson, DB

RETURNING STARTERS: 14 (7 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A29 AKRON; S7 at Hawaii; S14 at Army; S21 at Northwestern; O5 E. MICHIGAN; O12 at Ball St.; O19 at Kent; O26 BOWLING GREEN (HC); N2 at W. Michigan; N9 at Miami (Ohio); N16 at East Carolina; N23 TOLEDO

OVERVIEW: Ohio went to the triple-option offense a year ago, yet they didn't have the speed to penalize opponents who stacked the line of scrimmage.

So that was coach Jim Grobe's top recruiting priority, and he landed a batch of speedsters, including quarterback David Murphy from Cincinnati.

Kareem Wilson is the returning quarterback, but he learned the system as he went along last season and is a question mark due to academics. Regardless, the 6-2 Murphy might win the spot after running the triple-option in high school.

OU also added speed to back up fullback Steve Hookfin (668 yards as a freshman) and veteran slotback Hank Ray. Jason Caudill is the top offensive lineman at 6-4, 280, and will be surrounded by a number of JUCO transfers. The secondary, led by 6-2 senior free safety Justin Anderson, and the outside linebacking corps is established, but newcomer Bobby Holloway may be the top dog on defense. He has only one year of eligibility remaining after transferring from Air Force, but the 6-3, 280-pounder is expected to make a run for all-conference honors.

The Bobcats again will be extremely young, and the schedule is demanding, with eight road games—including a trip to Hawaii—in a 10-week stretch.

"We'll be much, much improved," Grobe said. "But with eight road games, it might not show in the record."

10. KENT GOLDEN FLASHES

COACH: Jim Corrigan, 3rd year, 3-18-1

'95 RECORD: 1-9-1 (0-7-1 conf.)

STADIUM/LOCATION: Dix Stadium (30,520), Kent, Ohio

KEY PLAYERS LOST: Mike Barry, DE (2nd-team All-MAC); Brian Miller, LB; Gerald Washington, DT

RETURNING STARTERS: 17 (9 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

SCHEDULE: A31 at Miami (Ohio); S7 at Pittsburgh; S14 YOUNGSTOWN ST.; S28 at Nevada; O5 AKRON (HC); O12 at Bowling Green; O19 OHIO; O26 at E. Michigan; N2 CENTRAL MICHIGAN; N9 at Ball St.; N16 at W. Michigan

OVERVIEW: In a program that has gone seven years without more than two wins in any season, it seems there is a constant youth movement. This year is no different except for the belief that some of Kent's newcomers are a cut above the norm.

Frankie Sinclair is a much-ballyhooed transfer, coming from Fresno City CC where he rushed for more than 2,000 yards and had 25 touchdowns in one season. Ron "Bam-Bam" White is a 6-7, 300-pound offensive lineman out of Nassau (N.Y.) Community College. And Jose Davis is a true freshman who passed for 6,700 yards and 60 TDs during his career at Bellaire (Ohio) High. He was Ohio's Division IV Player of the Year and runner-up as the state's Mr. Football.

All will get a chance to play immediately. Davis will have several experienced receivers to work with, including 6-6, 256-pound tight end O.J. Santiago.

Corrigan and his offensive staff will toy with some new formations that would allow Sinclair and tailback Astron Whatley to be on the field at the same time. Whatley is a returning first-team All-MAC player who rushed for 978 yards, almost all of Kent's 1995 ground yardage. Both should find room to run behind 6-6, 277-pound junior tackle Steve Zahursky.

Dave Hackenberg covers the Mid-American Conference for the Toledo (Ohio) Blade.

I-AA PRESEASON TOP 25

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

LEO HAMLETT, DELAWARE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

TONY MCCOMBS, EASTERN KENTUCKY

RANK (1995 RECORD)

1. MARSHALL (12-3)

2. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN (11-2)

3. McNEESE STATE (13-1)

4. NORTHERN IOWA (8-5)

5. DELAWARE (11-2)

6. MONTANA (13-2)

7. APPALACHIAN STATE (12-1)

8. HOFSTRA (10-2)

9. EASTERN KENTUCKY (9-3)

10. SOUTHERN (11-1)

11. MURRAY STATE (11-2)

12. JACKSON STATE (9-3)

13. SW MISSOURI ST. (4-7)

14. WEBER STATE (6-5)

15. MIDDLE TENN. STATE (7-4)

16. GEORGIA SOUTHERN (9-4)

17. INDIANA STATE (7-4)

THE BOTTOM LINE

With 17 returning starters from last year's national runner-up, the Thundering Herd is the team to beat. The Southland Conference favorite returns nine of 11 starters on defense.

All-America defensive back Zack Bronson (87 tackles, 5 INTs) is a future pro.

All-America wide receiver Dedric Ward is back, along with seven starters on defense.

Quarterback Leo Hamlett is a bonafide Walter Payton Award candidate—the award given to the nation's best I-AA player.

Defending national champs lose super QB Dave Dickenson, but eight of 11 starters are back on defense.

The Mountaineers return one of I-AA's top linebackers, Dexter Coaxley, and nine starters from an offense that averaged 253 rushing yards per game.

Fifteen starters return, including All-America LB Eugene McAleer (152 tackles).

LB Tony McCombs (108 tackles) and RB William Murrell (982 yards, 16 TDs) should help the Colonels regain Ohio Valley supremacy.

Junior tailback Melvin Williams (1,086 yards) paces the Jaguars' run at a second straight SWAC crown.

All-America DB William Hampton (four INT returns for TDs in '95) joins Renardo Hampton and Kenny Thomas to form perhaps the best secondary in I-AA football.

QB Graylin Pratt (2,372 yards passing in '95) leads the SWAC's most potent passing attack.

Powerful offense is engineered by junior Jeremy Hoog (62 percent completion rate).

Senior QB Roger Cook appears poised to continue his winning ways (3-1 as a starter).

All-America defensive end Anthony McCord joins Anthony Hicks to form one of the nation's most feared pass rushes.

A playoff appearance could hinge on home games against Marshall and Appalachian State.

Eight starters are back from a defense that ranked 20th nationally in total

18. UCONN (8-3)

19. TROY STATE (11-1)

20. NORTHERN ARIZONA (7-4)

21. DUQUESNE (10-1)

22. YOUNGSTOWN STATE (3-8)

23. HOWARD (6-5)

24. LIBERTY (8-3)

25. DARTMOUTH (7-2-1)

defense (282.6 ypg.).

Splendid sophomore RB Tory Taylor (1,262 yards in 1995) leads the Huskies' run at a first-ever I-AA playoff berth.

The Trojans move into the tough Southland Conference this season, but they remain one of the nation's best programs.

The 'Jack Attack travels on the ground this year with senior tailback Archie Amerson (1,117 yards, 12 TDs) back in the fold.

QB Dave Loya fuels a high-octane offense that averaged 400 yards and 27 points per game last season. Expect this perennial power to rebound from last year's dreadful showing.

DL Shawn Hall and Marques Douglas (16 combined sacks) will keep MEAC quarterbacks on the run.

Running back Lawrence Worthington and all-purpose whiz Andrew McFadden lead a potent offense.

With 17 returning starters, "Gang Green" is clearly the class of the Ivy League.

I-AA ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	LEO HAMLETT	DELAWARE	6-1/200	Sr.
RB	THOMAS HASKINS	VMI	5-8/172	Sr.
RB	CHAD LEVITT	CORNELL	6-1/227	Sr.
WR	DEDRIC WARD	NORTHERN IOWA	5-9/179	Sr.
WR	KOBIE JENKINS	ALCORN STATE	6-4/210	Sr.
TE	ED PERRY	JAMES MADISON	6-5/240	Sr.
OL	MIKE AGEE	MONTANA	6-4/285	Sr.
OL	JAMIE NAILS	FLORIDA A&M	6-7/350	Jr.
OL	AARON FERGUSON	MARSHALL	6-3/280	Sr.
OL	RALEIGH ROUNDTREE	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	6-5/290	Sr.
OL	SCOTT KADLUB	APPALACHIAN STATE	6-0/281	Sr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	JOSH HAYS	IDAHO STATE	6-2/235	Jr.
DL	BILLY LYON	MARSHALL	6-5/290	Sr.
DL	PRATT LYONS	TROY STATE	6-4/280	Sr.
DL	ANTHONY MCCORD	MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	6-0/230	Sr.
LB	DEXTER COAXLEY	APPALACHIAN STATE	5-11/205	Sr.
LB	TONY MCCOMBS	EASTERN KENTUCKY	6-2/239	Sr.
LB	EUGENE MCALEER	HOFSTRA	6-0/230	Sr.
DB	WILLIAM HAMPTON	MURRAY STATE	6-1/175	Sr.
DB	ZACK BRONSON	McNEESE STATE	6-1/200	Sr.
DB	DARREN SHARPER	WILLIAM & MARY	6-3/190	Sr.
DB	BLAINE MCELMURRY	MONTANA	6-1/205	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	DAVE ETTINGER	HOFSTRA	6-0/215	Sr.
P	TODD KURZ	ILLINOIS STATE	6-4/205	Sr.
RS	CLAUDE MATHIS	SOUTHWEST TEXAS	5-9/185	Jr.

BIG SKY

I-AA

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

ALFREDO ANDERSON, IDAHO STATE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

BLAINE McELMURRY, MONTANA

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. MONTANA
2. WEBER STATE
3. NORTHERN ARIZONA
4. IDAHO STATE
5. MONTANA STATE
- *6. PORTLAND STATE
7. EASTERN WASHINGTON
8. CAL STATE-SACRAMENTO
9. CAL STATE-NORTHRIDGE

* INELIGIBLE FOR LEAGUE TITLE

By KIM BRIGGEMAN

The Big Sky Conference boasts the defending national champion in Montana and the best Sagarin rating in Division I-AA football. Now the league stretches to the West Coast, though the additions of Cal States Northridge and Sacramento and Portland State don't initially make up for losing vanguard programs Boise State and Idaho, both I-A frequent I-AA playoff visitors who jumped to the Big West.

Portland State, a Division II semifinalist four times in the last nine years, must sit out the Big Sky race for two seasons. Both California teams have been playing at the I-AA level for a few years, but with a fraction of the 63 scholarships allowed Big Sky teams, they will need time to adjust.

1. MONTANA GRIZZLIES

OVERVIEW: The Grizzlies (13-2 overall, 6-1 Big Sky) have long been pass happy, and that won't change. But Dave Dickenson, the winner of the 1995 Walter Payton Award and the school's best quarterback ever, ran out of eligibility. Junior Josh Paffhausen, who played some at wide receiver, is the likely successor to Dickenson. Only three defensive starters left, a swarm of good receivers returns and the offensive line is potentially the strongest in school history.

"This may be the best nucleus we've had here in

10 years," veteran coach Don Read said.

Junior linebacker Jason Crebo and senior free safety Blaine McElmurry, a, 1995 All America, lead a stingy defensive unit.

2. WEBER STATE WILDCATS

OVERVIEW: Senior Roger Cook's three wins in four starts makes him the most proven quarterback on a team that passes more than anyone except Montana. The Wildcats (6-5, 4-3) have two players in their secondary who stand 6-foot-4—cornerback Ian Franklin and new safety Scott Shields. Shields (16 of 18 on FGs) was one of the nation's top placekickers as a freshman. He may also punt.

Coach Dave Aslanian lost two, and maybe three, of his receivers. The status of Norvel Young (42 catches, 696 yards, 10 TDs) was unclear after he dropped out of school last winter.

3. NORTHERN ARIZONA LUMBERJACKS

OVERVIEW: Lumberjacks coach Steve Axman takes pride in offensive balance. That approach might be tested this season. Northern Arizona (7-4, 4-3) lost quarterback Jeff Lewis to the NFL, and three top receivers are gone too. But running back Archie Amerson (1,117 yards, 12 TDs) is back. He'll run behind one of the league's best lines, anchored by tackle Dan Finn.

Either sophomore transfer Kevin Stephens or freshman Travis Brown will succeed Lewis at quarterback. One thing that won't change: Lumberjack defenders, with end Bert Petrucci in the forefront, will be among the nation's best in forcing turnovers.

4. IDAHO STATE BENGALS

OVERVIEW: Coach Brian McNeely has two conference MVP candidates—senior flashback Alfredo Anderson of Miami (1,192 yards, 11 TDs) and junior defensive end Jason Hays. Anderson, who came from the same high school that produced New York Jets linebacker Marvin Jones, can become the Big Sky's all-time leading rusher with 1,343 yards. Hays is one of the top sack men in league history.

Hays and cornerback Marcus Jackson key a defense that was drastically improved last year, both in forcing turnovers and holding down the score. But the Bengals (6-5, 3-4) petered out on offense. Perhaps the decision to scrap the option will pay dividends a year later with fearless quarterback Gary Anderson in charge. He replaces two-year starter Robb Wetta, who transferred to Fresno State.

5. MONTANA STATE BOBCATS

OVERVIEW: Coach Cliff Hysell keeps trying to pop open the offense for the Bobcats (5-6, 2-5), but the offensive line must be rebuilt and there's a quarterback quandary. Neither junior signal-caller Jeff Tuss nor sophomore Rob Compson has distinguished himself yet. Matt Engelking (1,176 yards rushing) had a sensational junior year but lacks explosiveness.

As usual, Hysell's club doesn't hurt for defensive punch. Ends Neal Smith and Devlan Geddes are among the league's best. The secondary, led

by safety Scott Matthews, is veteran and savvy.

6. PORTLAND STATE VIKINGS

OVERVIEW: The Vikings (8-5 as a Division II Independent) lost 15 starters, a half-dozen because of Division I's five-year clock restriction.

PSU is 10-6-2 against the Big Sky in the last 10 years and can wreak havoc in the league, especially if sophomore Gary Clemons pans out for coach Tim Walsh. Clemons rushed for 1,300 yards and 15 touchdowns for Moorpark (Calif.) Junior College last season. University of Washington transfer Tom Matijacic will bolster the depleted linebacking ranks.

7. EASTERN WASHINGTON EAGLES

OVERVIEW: The Eagles (3-8, 1-6) surrendered 178 points in the final three games of 1995 after a spate of injuries. All but one starter returns on defense, which could be good or bad news. Joe Sewell, whose 1,025 yards rushing were the most by an EWU back in 30 years, was granted a sixth year of eligibility after a medical appeal to the NCAA. Guard T.J. Ackerman, a blocker with NFL-type skills, is back following a knee injury in his freshman year. Third-year coach Mike Kramer wants to open up the offense behind quarterback Griffin Garske, a redshirt freshman.

8. CAL STATE-SACRAMENTO HORNETS

OVERVIEW: Of the league's three new teams, the Hornets (4-6-1) might rise the fastest. They can all but own territorial recruiting rights to a large swath of California junior colleges, and coach John Volek has one thing most don't—an established quarterback. Senior signal-caller Tony Corbin (6-4, 215) was co-MVP of the now-defunct American West Conference after throwing for 2,532 yards and 17 TDs in 1995. Senior Michael Stewart won the American West rushing title with 1,161 yards. Volek, a former JUCO coach in California and Washington, should be more well-prepared this season. He was hired the month before fall drills opened last season.

9. CAL STATE-NORTHRIDGE MATADORS

OVERVIEW: As many as 16 Matador starters could return. Whether they'll all start again is another matter. Northridge (2-8) lost to Big Sky foes Idaho State and Northern Arizona by a combined tally of 120-7.

The Matadors fit into the Big Sky motif—they love to pass. Senior wide receiver Tim Hilton caught 20 tosses in a game last year and will have standout Los Angeles Valley College transfer Aaron Flowers throwing to him.

The further back you go, the stronger the defense gets. Strong safety Teddy Mack should be one of the best in the Big Sky.

Kim Briggeman covers the Big Sky for the Missoulian.

ALL-BIG SKY TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	ROGER COOK	WEBER STATE	6-5/215	Sr.
RB	ALFREDO ANDERSON	IDAHO STATE	5-10/175	Sr.
RB	ARCHIE AMERSON	N. ARIZONA	5-9/175	Sr.
WR	MIKE ERHARDT	MONTANA	6-4/205	Sr.
WR	JOE DOUGLASS	MONTANA	6-0/180	Sr.
TE	CHAD MAYER	MONTANA STATE	6-3/243	Sr.
OL	KYLE STEPHENS	WEBER STATE	6-7/295	Sr.
OL	DAN FINN	N. ARIZONA	6-4/295	Jr.
OL	MIKE AGEE	MONTANA	6-4/285	Sr.
OL	JAMES MARTIN	N. ARIZONA	6-4/305	Sr.
OL	DAVID KEMPFFERT	MONTANA	6-4/288	Sr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	JOSH HAYS	IDAHO STATE	6-2/235	Jr.
DL	NEAL SMITH	MONTANA STATE	6-5/226	Jr.
DL	BEN PETRUCCI	N. ARIZONA	6-2/260	Sr.
DL	DEVLAN GEDDES	MONTANA STATE	6-3/236	Sr.
LB	JASON CREBO	MONTANA	6-4/225	Jr.
LB	MIKE BOUCHEE	MONTANA	6-2/241	Sr.
LB	NAKI PILVI	WEBER STATE	6-2/240	Sr.
DB	BLAINE McELMURRY	MONTANA	6-1/205	Sr.
DB	OMAR TURNER	MONTANA STATE	5-9/184	Sr.
DB	MARCUS JACKSON	IDAHO STATE	6-1/175	Sr.
DB	TEDDY MACK	CS-NORTHRIDGE	5-10/200	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	SCOTT SHIELDS	WEBER STATE	6-4/210	Soph.
P	TOM ZURELH	E. WASHINGTON	6-0/185	Soph.
RS	JOE DOUGLASS	MONTANA	6-0/180	Sr.

1. NORTHERN IOWA

2. SW MISSOURI STATE

3. INDIANA STATE

4. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

5. ILLINOIS STATE

6. WESTERN ILLINOIS

By DOUG NEWHOFF

For six straight seasons, Northern Iowa has been the league's regular season champion, and there's no reason to think that anything will change in 1996.

Terry Allen (63-24 in seven seasons as Northern Iowa's head coach) passed up an opportunity at Division I-A Northern Illinois to return to Cedar Falls. Why? Because his program is inching closer to a coveted I-AA national championship.

Southwest Missouri State and Indiana State will be major obstacles to overcome, and the margin between the top and the bottom in the Gateway has grown smaller. In the end, defense and special teams have carried the Panthers over the top.

"It's just like every year," said Indiana State coach Dennis Raetz. "Until someone shows that they can beat Northern Iowa, they are the class of the league."

1. NORTHERN IOWA PANTHERS

OVERVIEW: For the fifth straight year, Northern Iowa (8-5 overall, 5-1 conference) features another one-year wonder at quarterback in fifth-year senior Steve Beard, who put a promising baseball career on hold for his shot to lead the offense. He's a strong-armed passer who will pile up big numbers throwing to All-America senior wide receiver Dedric Ward (44 catches, 1,164 yards, 12 TDs) and nimble Alonzo Clayton (22-373, four TDs).

The Panthers' top four rushers return, including speedy James Porter (606 yards) and senior running back Jeff Stovall (602 yards).

Defensively, the secondary returns intact, along with both inside linebackers and half of an outside tandem that traditionally forces opposing quarterbacks to run for their lives.

"We have to get better up front," Allen said. "We have to get physically stronger on the lines both offensively and defensively."

2. SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE BEARS

OVERVIEW: Last year's 1-5 league record wasn't what it appeared. The Bears (4-7) lost their last five Gateway games by a total of 17 points, and no league game was decided by more than seven.

"It really comes down to the little things," said second-year coach Del Miller. "Early on, it was probably not having a quarterback in position to really run our offense. Two other factors were penalties and turnovers."

Junior Jeremy Hoog took over at quarterback midway through the season and completed 62 percent of his passes for 1,265 yards in Miller's wide-open attack. He enters the season sixth on the school's all-time career passing list and should move up steadily throwing to junior Jason Cannon (53 grabs for 842 yards in '95.)

The backfield is solid, and the offensive line is the best in the league with three all-league candidates,

I-AA

GATEWAY

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

DEDRIC WARD, NORTHERN IOWA

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

ERIC JOHNSON, ILLINOIS STATE

including senior All-America candidate Paxton Parker (6-3, 271) and junior Brad Kubik (6-4, 270).

Defensively, the strength is the front seven, led by senior lineman Mike Miano (6-3, 303) and senior linebacker Bennie McLin (81 tackles). Senior free safety Travis Richardson, the team's leading tackler with 110, also returns.

3. INDIANA STATE SYCAMORES

OVERVIEW: With eight starters returning from a defensive unit that ranked 20th nationally in total defense (282.6 yards per game), a little more offensive production could make contenders of the Sycamores (7-4, 3-3) in 1996.

Senior linebackers Chris Libaire (145 tackles) and Richard Moss (109) lead the defensive charge, which features seven of the team's top eight tacklers from last year.

Offensively, senior Kevin Cox has a year under his helmet as starting quarterback, but Indiana State mustered just 327 yards per game under his direction last year, and it will be without graduated tailback David Wright (929 yards) in the backfield. Raetz hopes senior tailback Jason Potter (523 rushing yards, four TDs) can produce behind an inexperienced offensive line so Cox can take advantage of the return of both starting wideouts, seniors Micah Reed and Larry Brown.

Someone will also have to step into the shoes of departed placekicker Tom Allison, who hit 18 of his 23 field-goal attempts.

4. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS

OVERVIEW: Southern improved dramatically in coach Shawn Watson's second year, going from 1-10 to 5-6 (2-4). The next step will be a larger one.

A long list of returning veterans helps, including six who made the league's all-newcomer squad in 1995. Offensively, that group features sophomore running back Karlton Carpenter, who rushed for 556 yards. He's joined by all-league tight end Damon Jones (35 catches, 597 yards), a former University of Michigan starter. The big question is at quarterback, because Danny Smith (1,445 yards) has flunked out of school.

Senior punter Mark Gagliano is an All-Gateway candidate (40.2 average) if his leg holds up. Another area of strength should be the return game, where the Salukis ranked ninth nationally in punt returns (12.4) and 23rd in kickoff returns (21.1).

5. ILLINOIS STATE REDBIRDS

OVERVIEW: Todd Berry makes his head coaching debut in the league and brings another potentially explosive offense to the fold. The former offensive coordinator at East Carolina likes spreading the field with as many as four wide receivers.

Berry inherits several of the league's top players. Senior punter/placekicker Todd Kurz earned All-America honors in 1995. Senior defensive tackle Eric Johnson, a first-team all-conference performer, was a stalwart up front, while senior defensive back Duane Butler and senior offensive

tackle Andy Ziebarth also emerged for the Redbirds (5-6, 3-3). Quarterbacks Bill Hagman (1,359 yards) and Lester Anderson (519 yards) also return, along with senior wideout Jarrett Jackson (45 catches, 649 yards).

The major questions are the lack of experience on offense and at linebacker.

6. WESTERN ILLINOIS LEATHERNECKS

OVERVIEW: Western's personnel losses from a 4-7 (2-4) team were severe. Gone are two receivers who combined for 100 catches and almost 1,600 yards, a standout kick returner and defensive back, the top five offensive linemen and two leaders along the defensive front.

While only four starters return on offense, at least coach Randy Ball retains junior quarterback Jeff Hecklinski, who passed for a league-best 2,149 yards last season. Slashing senior runner Brian Knuckles (820 rushing yards) and Ball State transfer Corey Day form a strong running tandem.

Defensively, all-conference cornerback Frank Spraggins led the team in tackles last year. Ryan Culver and Wayne Stewart are steady defensive linemen and nickelback Lamont Nicholson (78 tackles, two INTs) should aid Spraggins.

Doug Newhoff is a staff writer for the Waterloo (Iowa) Courier.

ALL-GATEWAY TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	JEREMY HOOG	SW MISSOURI STATE	5-11/175	Jr.
RB	JASON POTTER	INDIANA STATE	5-7/177	Sr.
RB	BRIAN KNUCKLES	WESTERN ILLINOIS	5-11/195	Sr.
WR	DEDRIC WARD	NORTHERN IOWA	5-9/179	Sr.
WR	JASON CANNON	SW MISSOURI STATE	6-1/180	Jr.
TE	DAMON JONES	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	6-6/280	Sr.
OL	BRAD SCHWING	INDIANA STATE	6-2/325	Sr.
OL	PAXTON PARKER	SW MISSOURI STATE	6-3/271	Sr.
OL	ANDY ZIEBARTH	ILLINOIS STATE	6-4/285	Sr.
OL	BRAD KUBIK	SW MISSOURI STATE	6-4/270	Jr.
OL	CHRIS CLAPP	NORTHERN IOWA	6-4/256	Jr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	ERIC JOHNSON	ILLINOIS STATE	6-2/265	Sr.
DL	MIKE MIANO	SW MISSOURI STATE	6-3/303	Sr.
DL	T.C. BARNEY	NORTHERN IOWA	6-3/261	Sr.
DL	EARENEST GRAYSON	SW MISSOURI STATE	6-2/225	Sr.
LB	CHRIS LIBAIRE	INDIANA STATE	6-1/215	Sr.
LB	TIM MILLER	NORTHERN IOWA	6-3/212	Sr.
LB	DANNIE SPANN	NORTHERN IOWA	6-0/235	Sr.
DB	TY TALTON	NORTHERN IOWA	6-0/189	SOPH.
DB	FRANK SPRAGGINS	WESTERN ILLINOIS	5-11/170	Jr.
DB	DUANE BUTLER	ILLINOIS STATE	6-3/210	Sr.
DB	MARCUS EASTER	NORTHERN IOWA	6-1/180	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	TODD KURZ	ILLINOIS STATE	6-4/205	Sr.
P	MARK GAGLIANO	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	6-4/208	Sr.
RS	KARLTON CARPENTER	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	5-9/199	SOPH.

IVY LEAGUE

I-AA

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

CHAD LEVITT, CORNELL

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

MARK ABEL, DARTMOUTH

By HARVEY YAVENER

It had been 31 years since Princeton won an undisputed Ivy League football title, but the Tigers changed that last fall. And they did it the old-fashioned way: They tied to get the crown.

Four seconds away from an unprecedented four-way tie for first place, Princeton kicked an 18-yard field goal on the closing play to tie Dartmouth, 10-10, and claim the title with a 5-1-1 record.

So, how did the NCAA send its congratulations? By voting to do away with tie games.

"I've always felt," said 10th-year Princeton coach Steve Tosches, "a tie was a valid outcome to a football game." Given the new rules, Tosches says he'd have gone for the touchdown on the final play and not taken a chance with overtime.

1. DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN

OVERVIEW: With 17 starters returning, including the heart of the best defense in the league, "Gang Green" is the clear-cut favorite to regain the title it either won or shared from 1990-'92.

All-Ivy linebackers Mark Abel and Zack Walz combined with third returnee Brian Schmidt for 349 tackles last year, while senior All-Ivy defensive end Scott Hapgood recorded a dozen sacks. The entire secondary returns, led by junior strong safety Lloyd Lee, on a defensive unit that surrendered a league-

low 279.9 yards a game.

Ball control again will be the key to coach John Lyons' multiple-I offense. Seniors Greg Smith (826 yards, three TDs) and Pete Oberle (282 yards, one TD) run behind a veteran line headed by Brian Larsen (6-foot-6, 275 pounds) and Trey Bowers (6-5, 260).

2. BROWN BEARS

OVERVIEW: The given is that the Bears (5-5 overall, 2-5 conference) will be explosive, with senior All-Ivy quarterback and All-America candidate Jason McCullough having already become Brown's all-time leader in virtually every major passing category. Add receiver Sean Morey, the 1995 Ivy Rookie of the Year, and senior running back Marquis Jessie, Brown's all-time leading rusher, and coach Mark Whipple's third Brown edition has the skill positions blanketed.

The defense returns eight starters, including two All-Ivy players—senior nose guard Brendan Finneran and senior cornerback Greg Parker, who had five interceptions. With six of its top seven tacklers back, Brown hopes it can contend for the first outright Ivy title in school history.

3. CORNELL BIG RED

OVERVIEW: Cornell's dominating one-two running punch became one when junior scatback Terry Smith elected to give up the game after averaging 5.4 yards per carry last fall. But the Big Red (6-4, 5-2) still boasts king-sized senior Chad Levitt (6-1, 227), the league's most dangerous force. Levitt netted 1,428 yards last year on 292 carries and without Smith could gain the 1,494 yards needed to replace Ed Marinaro as the Big Red's all-time No. 1 rusher.

Whoever replaces quarterback Steve Joyce, whose 2,255 passing yards last year was a school record, will have multiple targets, led by senior All-Ivy tight end Jimmy Seifert.

Defensively, senior tackles Seth Payne (6-4, 275) and Mahingus Silver (6-3, 291) are the anchors, and sophomore linebacker John Hanson has fans excited after 101 tackles as a freshman starter.

4. PRINCETON TIGERS

OVERVIEW: Graduation wiped out both the offensive and defensive lines, and starting quarterback Harry Nakielny became an academic casualty. But Tosches has rebuilt before and kept winning; since 1991 the Tigers have lost 10 games, fewest of any NCAA Division I-AA program.

Although the trenches have to be rebuilt, the secondary is in veteran hands, featuring All-America candidate Damani Leech, Jimmy Archie and Tom Ludwig. Junior Tim Greene leads a line-backing crew that can't replace the leadership of Ivy MVP Dave Patterson.

Offensively, senior Brett Budzinski, who moved to quarterback, will battle junior Jackie Dempsey. Whoever starts has a quality receiver in senior Kevin Duffy, who caught nine touchdowns and gained 583 yards on 41 receptions.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. DARTMOUTH

2. BROWN

3. CORNELL

4. PRINCETON

5. COLUMBIA

6. PENNSYLVANIA

7. HARVARD

8. YALE

5. COLUMBIA LIONS

OVERVIEW: The Lions were 3-0 in Ivy play when disaster hit at Princeton and quarterback Mike Cavanaugh was lost to injury. Without him, Columbia lost its final four games. There's still no proven quarterback in sight, with Bobby Thomason likely to start after finishing 1995 in relief.

The good news is that two stars off the 1994 team are back after missing last season, including Marcellus Wiley, an All-Ivy force at defensive end. Also back is Jim Jones, who caught 39 passes in '94, to join David Ramirez (46 recs., 706 yards in '95).

The defense is led by All-Ivy linebacker Rory Wilfork, who had 141 tackles a year ago.

6. PENNSYLVANIA QUAKERS

OVERVIEW: Only 69 yards shy of becoming Penn's all-time passing leader, Mark DeRosa looks like he will pass on football and concentrate on a pro career in baseball, where he is a much-prized short-stop. Should DeRosa decide to return to football, the Quakers (7-3, 5-2) become an instant contender again despite losing 10 all-league players.

Seniors Aman Abye and Jason Scott teamed to rush for 1,379 yards last season and both are back, as is dangerous senior receiver Mark Fabish. If there's no DeRosa to run the attack, coach Al Bagnoli will count even more on a defense led by senior All-Ivy tackle Mitch Marrow, linebacker Tim Gage and junior corner Larrin Robertson.

7. HARVARD CRIMSON

OVERVIEW: Eion Hu needs 19 yards to become Harvard's all-time rushing leader, but the standout senior halfback must compile many more if the Crimson (2-8, 1-6) want to escape the doldrums. Hu will try to repeat his success (1,101 yards) without an experienced quarterback feeding him the ball. Junior Jay Snowden will throw behind a line featuring senior captain Sean Riley (6-4, 285), junior Matt Birk (6-5, 285) and sophomore Alex Garcia (6-3, 275).

Coach Tim Murphy needs defensive improvement with the return of six starters, including the entire line.

8. YALE BULLDOGS

OVERVIEW: Cam Cozza plans to return for his 32nd season, insisting he wants to stay on the job as long as he's healthy and enthusiastic. The Bulldogs lost 16 starters from a 3-7 team that had one shining moment when it stunned 6-0 Princeton to set up the wild final Ivy weekend.

Yale is also looking for a new quarterback, and whoever gets the job has veteran protection in senior Allan McCall (6-4, 250), junior Doug Cullum (6-3, 275) and senior Jack Hill (6-3, 245).

Harvey Yavener covers the Ivy League for the Trenton (N.J.) Times.

ALL-IVY LEAGUE TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	JASON MCCULLOUGH	BROWN	6-1/200	Sr.
RB	CHAD LEVITT	CORNELL	6-1/227	Sr.
RB	EION HU	HARVARD	5-10/200	Sr.
WR	SEAN MOREY	BROWN	5-11/180	Soph.
WR	KEVIN DUFFY	PRINCETON	5-9/160	Sr.
TE	JIMMY SEIFERT	CORNELL	6-5/229	Sr.
OL	BRIAN LARSEN	DARTMOUTH	6-6/275	Sr.
OL	RANDY MURFF	COLUMBIA	6-2/295	Sr.
OL	TREY BOWERS	DARTMOUTH	6-5/260	Sr.
OL	BRIAN WEIDEL	CORNELL	6-4/245	Sr.
OL	JACK HILL	YALE	6-3/245	Sr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	MARCELLUS WILEY	COLUMBIA	6-5/245	Sr.
DL	BRENDAN FINNERAN	BROWN	6-0/250	Sr.
DL	MITCH MARROW	PENN	6-3/270	Sr.
DL	SCOTT HAPGOOD	DARTMOUTH	6-2/235	Sr.
LB	MARK ABEL	DARTMOUTH	6-1/220	Sr.
LB	ZACK WALZ	DARTMOUTH	6-5/210	Jr.
LB	RORY WILFORK	COLUMBIA	6-2/220	Sr.
DB	DAMANI LEECH	PRINCETON	5-11/180	Jr.
DB	GREG PARKER	BROWN	5-10/165	Sr.
DB	JIMMY ARCHIE	PRINCETON	5-9/170	Sr.
DB	LYOUD LEE	DARTMOUTH	6-2/205	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	JEREMIAH GREATHOUSE	PENN	5-9/170	Jr.
P	JOHN LAFFERTY	YALE	5-9/165	Sr.
RS	ROY HANKS	COLUMBIA	5-8/165	Jr.

1. DUQUESNE
2. GEORGETOWN
3. MARIST
4. ST. JOHN'S
5. ST. PETER'S
6. IONA
7. CANISIUS
8. SIENA
9. FAIRFIELD

By PHIL AXELROD

Duquesne's Greg Gattuso figures last season's Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship was just the beginning.

"I think we can win the title again," said Gattuso, whose Dukes finished 10-1 overall, 7-0 in the MAAC and won nine straight, including a 44-20 victory over Wagner in the ECAC Bowl. "We're a confident bunch. We're a very strong program."

Gattuso placed the target right on his broad back when he picked Duquesne to finish first in a preseason poll of coaches. With good reason, too. The Dukes return five first-team All-MAAC performers and 14 starters.

1. DUQUESNE DUKES

OVERVIEW: The offense, which averaged nearly 400 yards and 27 points per game, will feature junior quarterback Dave Loya passing to all-conference wideouts Joe Rosato and Mark Neely. Loya came on strong after winning the job in the third game of the season to complete 58 percent of his passes for 2,000 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Gattuso's biggest task on offense will be to replace running back Bill Green, whose 1,427 yards rushing was a school record and second in the MAAC. The top candidates are sophomore Andy DeFazio, freshmen Rausaan Powell and Lanell Irby and Ohio State transfer Andre Hatcher. The defense features cornerbacks Bryan Cornell and Bill Sepich, linebacker Matt Fisher and tackle Todd Amick.

2. GEORGETOWN HOYAS

OVERVIEW: The young kids of the past two years now are seasoned veterans who form the nucleus of a team that promises to score a lot of points while giving up a good number, too.

Offensively, the Hoyas (6-3 overall, 5-2 MAAC) will rely on tailbacks Joe Todsico (774 yards, 5 TDs) and quarterback Bill Ward (1,392 yards passing, 11 TDs) to carry the load. Returning from a defense that allowed 11 points and 68 yards rushing per game are tackle Janne Kouri, who had a team-high 10 sacks, nose guard Steve Pogorelec and cornerback Reid Ruberti.

3. MARIST RED FOXES

OVERVIEW: The Red Foxes' attack revolves around 5-foot-10, 175-pound tailback Jovan Rhodes (749 yards rushing, 5 TDs) running behind second-team All-MAAC performers Hugh Stanton and James Wynkoop, a pair of 6-2 juniors who weigh in the neighborhood of 260 pounds. The Red Foxes (6-4, 4-3) may throw a little more this season because sophomore Bill Tramaglini picked up valuable experience as a reserve last season when he completed 43 percent of his passes for 378 yards and two touchdowns. The top receivers are returnees Jon Reed (22 catches, 439 yards, 3 TDs) and Chris

I-AA

MAAC

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

DAVE LOYA, DUQUESNE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

JANNE KOURI, GEORGETOWN

D'Autorio (18, 260, 3 TDs). The strength on defense is the secondary, with Adam Hunt (6 INTs), Mario Wilson and Payl Deckaj anchoring the unit.

4. ST. JOHN'S RED STORM

OVERVIEW: The Red Storm (4-6, 3-4), a major disappointment last season, must shore up a defense that allowed nearly 27 points per game. The team's top all-around player is Ken Forte, an All-MAAC cornerback and the team's leading receiver with 20 catches for 331 yards and two touchdowns. Linebacker Steve DeAmicis, a second-team all-league performer, anchors the defense. Offensively, the Red Storm prefer to stick to the ground with Jermaine Creighton (914 yards, 12 TDs) carrying the ball most of the time. Coach Bob Ricca would like to find a starting quarterback and stick with him after rotating Terry Holman (634 yards, 3 TDs) and Anthony Sparacia (646 yards, 2 TDs), both freshmen last season.

5. ST. PETER'S PEACOCKS

OVERVIEW: The extremely young Peacocks (2-7, 2-5) feature two of the top sophomores in the league—running back Tom Reali, the MAAC Offensive Rookie of the Year, and linebacker Colin Scheifler, the co-Defensive Rookie of the Year. Reali rushed for a team-high 574 yards and three scores, and Scheifler led with 89 total tackles, including five for losses. The leader will again be All-MAAC linebacker William Bryant, who had 88 tackles (eight for losses) and four interceptions.

The Peacocks may switch quarterback Mike Casazza to defensive back if Colgate transfer Jeremy Bartuck can run the option attack that basically begins with play-action.

6. IONA GAELS

OVERVIEW: The Gaels (3-6, 3-4) must find a way to replace quarterback Tom Proudian, the trigger man in the run-and-shoot attack who passed for 2,396 yards and 14 TDs. The Gaels will be looking for either Tim Sullivan, who is coming off a knee injury, or Matt Whalen to win the job and get the ball to wide receiver Ralph Dupont, the team's leading pass-catcher with 43 receptions for 457 yards. Billy DeVito had 35 catches for 310 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for a team-high 440 yards and five scores.

The defense, which fell apart late in the season as the Gaels lost their final four games, features junior Whitney Epps, who had a team-high four interceptions and ranked second in the MAAC in punt returns with a 9.4 average.

7. CANISIUS GOLDEN GRIFFINS

OVERVIEW: Chuck Williams is banking on a veteran defense to keep the Griffins (4-6, 4-3) competitive. The leader of the pack is 6-4, 230-pound end Frank Zabawa, an All-MAAC performer who had 70 tackles, including six sacks. The linebacking corps is solid, with three-year starter Brad Steve in the middle, and the secondary rebuilds around

Chris Carlson (6 INTs). Offensively, the Griffins rely on the passing game because of wideout Mark Kolbe, an athletic 6-4 senior who caught 26 passes for 411 yards and three TDs last season.

8. SIENA SAINTS

OVERVIEW: Despite going 0-9 overall and 0-7 in the MAAC, the Saints boasted tailback Reggie Greene, the league's Offensive Player of the Year. As a sophomore, the 5-8, 172-pounder rushed for 1,461 yards and 11 TDs. He ran for 100 or more yards in every game. Sophomore Mike Courtney should start at quarterback after completing 21 of 49 passes for 250 yards as a part-timer. Defensively, the Saints should be improved with cornerback Paul Serie (5 INTs) and linebacker James Wolf (83 tackles).

9. FAIRFIELD STAGS

OVERVIEW: This will be the first year of varsity football for the Stags, who fielded a club team from 1966-'86. Kevin Kiesel, who spent the past three years rebuilding the program at Division III Albright College, will be Fairfield's coach. After inheriting an 0-10 team at Albright, Kiesel's teams went 3-7, 4-5-1 and 8-3 for the school's first winning season since 1983.

Phil Axelrod is a staff writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

ALL-MAAC TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	DAVE LOYA	DUQUESNE	6-3/210	Jr.
RB	REGGIE GREENE	SIENA	5-8/172	Jr.
RB	JOVAN RHODES	MARIST	5-10/175	Jr.
WR	MARK NEELY	DUQUESNE	6-0/185	Sr.
WR	JOE ROSATO	DUQUESNE	5-10/165	Jr.
TE	TODD Cwynar	DUQUESNE	6-4/210	Sr.
OL	JOHN FICORILLI	DUQUESNE	6-0/250	Sr.
OL	DAN RHEIN	ST. JOHN'S	6-2/225	Sr.
OL	ANDY CROCKER	DUQUESNE	6-3/265	Jr.
OL	CARMEN BRICILLO	DUQUESNE	6-1/235	Jr.
OL	JAMES WYNKOOP	MARIST	6-2/263	Jr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	JANNE KOURI	GEORGETOWN	6-4/260	Sr.
DL	FRANK ZABAWA	CANISIUS	6-4/230	Sr.
DL	TODD AMICK	DUQUESNE	6-2/215	Jr.
DL	ENRIQUE PIZARRO	ST. PETER'S	5-9/265	Sr.
LB	WILLIAM BRYANT	ST. PETER'S	6-2/230	Sr.
LB	MATT FISHER	DUQUESNE	6-1/225	SOPH.
LB	STEVE DEAMICIS	ST. JOHN'S	6-2/202	Sr.
DB	KEN FORTE	ST. JOHN'S	6-2/181	Sr.
DB	WHITNEY EPPS	IONA	6-0/175	Jr.
DB	MARIO WILSON	MARIST	5-11/170	Jr.
DB	BILL SEPICH	DUQUESNE	5-10/185	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	CHRIS D'AUTORIO	MARIST	5-11/192	Sr.
P	BRUCE NELSON	DUQUESNE	6-4/180	Sr.
RS	JOE ROSAT	DUQUESNE	5-10/185	Sr.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

TYRONE MAYER, HAMPTON

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

SHAWN HALL, HOWARD

By **CRAIG T. GREENLEE**

In the MEAC, this looks to be the year of the Howard Bison, a young team that proved it could hang with the big boys last season. Coach Steve Wilson has the total package on both sides of the ball and a top-flight kicking game. Howard is especially dangerous because it seizes every opportunity, leading the league in takeaways (36).

In its first year of being eligible to compete for the league crown, Hampton looms as a serious challenger to Howard for MEAC supremacy. The key for the Pirates is how well they play on the road. Defending champ Florida A&M steamrolled all comers in 1995 but will have a difficult time repeating. Heavy losses on both sides of the ball could hamper a return to the Heritage Bowl.

1. HOWARD UNIVERSITY BISON

OVERVIEW: All of 1995's starters are back for Howard (6-5 overall, 2-4 conference). The final record, though, is quite deceptive as the average margin of defeat was 7.4 points. Howard uncovered a bullish ground game midway through 1995 after quarterback Ted White was sidelined by a lacerated kidney. White is healthy, and Robert Bell and Anthony Heyward are among the elite offensive linemen in the MEAC. Add running backs Stephon Mosely and Aray Williams and the Bison offense is potent.

ALL-MEAC TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	TODD WALKER	BETHUNE-COOKMAN	6-5/230	SOPH.
RB	TYRONE MAYER	HAMPTON	6-1/235	Jr.
RB	MILTON SHAW	N.C. A&T	5-9/175	Sr.
WR	MIKE JENKINS	HAMPTON	6-4/190	Sr.
WR	JAMES ADDERLY	BETHUNE-COOKMAN	6-2/205	SOPH.
TE	KELLY CRAIG	SOUTH CAROLINA ST.	6-3/230	Sr.
OL	R. ROUNDTREE	SOUTH CAROLINA ST.	6-5/290	Sr.
OL	JAMIE NAILS	FLORIDA A&M	6-7/350	Jr.
OL	DEMETRIUS BILLIE	FLORIDA A&M	6-3/303	Sr.
OL	MATT WILDER	DELAWARE STATE	6-3/265	Sr.
OL	ANDRE TAYLOR	N.C. A&T	5-11/265	Sr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	SHAWN HALL	HOWARD	6-4/275	Jr.
DL	M. DOUGLAS	HOWARD	6-3/270	SOPH.
DL	CEDRIC WHITE	N.C. A&T	6-4/280	Sr.
DL	CHARTRIC DARBY	SOUTH CAROLINA ST.	6-1/230	Sr.
LB	DAMEON PALMER	SOUTH CAROLINA ST.	6-2/240	Sr.
LB	LYDD BADSON	DELAWARE STATE	6-1/230	Sr.
LB	MICHAEL WOMACK	BETHUNE-COOKMAN	6-1/225	Sr.
CB	DARRYL ROBINSON	SOUTH CAROLINA ST.	5-11/175	SOPH.
CB	WILLIE OGLESBY	BETHUNE-COOKMAN	6-5/220	Jr.
SS	BILLY JENKINS	HOWARD	6-1/180	Sr.
FS	JAY CLARK	HAMPTON	6-4/220	SOPH.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	JASON DECUIR	HOWARD	5-8/165	Sr.
P	RUBEN RUIZ	HOWARD	5-9/190	Sr.
RS	CEDRIC REDDEN	HOWARD	5-10/175	Jr.

Defensively, Howard attacks out of its 4-3 set and relies heavily on solo pass coverage. All-MEAC pick Shawn Hall and Marques Douglas put the squeeze on quarterbacks (16 sacks combined). Clarence Peacock is a standout at linebacker and safety Billy Jenkins anchors a feisty secondary.

2. HAMPTON PIRATES

OVERVIEW: With 15 starters back, Hampton (8-3 overall; ineligible for MEAC championship) has sufficient talent to make a run for the league title.

The Pirates generated nearly 394 total yards a game from their Wing-T offense. Bruiser back Tyrone Mayer (1,193 yards, 8 TDs) and elusive tailback Lamont Still could emerge as the league's premier backfield duo. Quarterback Matt Williams is ready to go after off-season shoulder surgery.

Defensively, the Pirates are switching to a 4-3 alignment. Darrell Flythe holds down the fort at linebacker.

3. FLORIDA A&M RATTTLERS

OVERVIEW: Defense sets the table in coach Billy Joe's scheme of things. The Rattlers stuff the run with their seven- and eight-man fronts. End Michael Thornton leads the cast, along with outside linebacker Brian Thomas. Look for defensive end Antonio Bradwell, a Louisville transfer, to make an immediate impact.

The offensive priority is getting the ball to the tailback. The Rattlers (9-2, 6-0) are short on experience in that area with the departure of Kwame Vidal (1,203 yards). The line, though, is solid, especially on the left side where Jamie Nails and Demetrius Billie reside. At quarterback, Damien Slaughter, 6-1 as a starter in '95, could face a stiff challenge from Albany State (Ga.) transfer Oteman Sampson.

4. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BULLDOGS

OVERVIEW: Three-time All-America running back Michael Hicks is gone, but the Bulldogs (6-4, 4-2) still have a punishing ground game spearheaded by a seasoned offensive line. Their option attack is intact with Kenny Bynum (841 all-purpose yards) stepping in for Hicks. Quarterback Antwaine Smith, though, will be pushed for playing time by Clemson-transfer Reggie Curry. If Curry gets the call, wideout Bobby McGowens and tight end Kelly Craig will take on an expanded role.

The Bulldogs' 3-4 defense packs a lot of bite with linebacker Dameon Palmer (107 tackles) doing most of the damage. Chartric Darby is the marquee performer on the line. Cornerback Darryl Robinson (2 INTs as a freshman), is one of the league's stellar cover men.

5. NORTH CAROLINA A&T AGGIES

OVERVIEW: The Aggies' defense traditionally wears opponents down with a relentless four-man front. Agile Torian James moves to middle linebacker from defensive end. The front line is exceptional with Cedric White, Troy Pelshak and Tyrone Simpkins. As a unit, the secondary lacks

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. HOWARD
2. HAMPTON
3. FLORIDA A&M
4. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
5. NORTH CAROLINA A&T
6. DELAWARE STATE
7. BETHUNE-COOKMAN
8. MORGAN STATE

experience, but the addition of cornerback Tory Costen, a VMI transfer, is a major plus.

A&T (4-7, 2-4) goes with a power running game out of the Wing-T. The offensive line has its share of wide-load types in John Goolsby, Andre Taylor, Adrian Thompkins and Steve Brooks. Running backs Reggie Shufford and Milton Shaw get most of the totes. The quarterback situation is unsettled but redshirt freshman Rodney Woodruff played well during the spring.

6. DELAWARE STATE HORNETS

OVERVIEW: The Hornets (6-5, 5-1) can be counted on to run 70 percent of the time. All-league guard Matt Wilder is the main cog on the line, but replacements are needed in the backfield where La Troy Caesar is the likely starter at quarterback. Dennis Hill and Robert London will be called on to carry the running load.

The defense has to carry the load until the offense finds its groove. Two-time all-conference linebacker Lloyd Badson and safety Jason Williams are dominant performers. With cornerback Barry Stinner (Virginia Tech transfer) on board, the Hornets have the makings of a contender.

7. BETHUNE-COOKMAN WILDCATS

OVERVIEW: Bethune-Cookman (3-8, 2-4) needs bigger people up front to improve a defense that allowed 45 touchdowns last year. The rest of the defense is better than respectable. Linebackers Michael Womack and Jerrell Cogman are fierce hitters. Louis Kirchgessner provides versatility as a standup defensive end, and Willie Oglesby intercepted a MEAC-best six passes last year.

On the other side of the ball, QB Todd Walker performed admirably as a freshman (2,535 yards, 19 TDs). Ditto for James Adderly, the league's No. 2 receiver (56 recs., 856 yards, 7 TDs).

8. MORGAN STATE BEARS

OVERVIEW: There's a new wave of optimism at Morgan State, even in the wake of last year's finish (1-10, 0-6). Former Arizona Cardinals running back Stump Mitchell is the new head coach and one-time Philadelphia Eagles safety Andre Waters takes over as the new defensive coordinator.

The run-and-shoot offense is out, replaced by the pro set. Otis Covington holds the key at quarterback. He makes the position switch after playing most of his career at wide receiver.

Defense is Morgan's strength. Linebacker James Hall (113 tackles) flourishes in the 3-4 as one of the league's top hit men. Levi Baucom, an all-league linebacker two years ago, is back after missing all of last year due to injury. Charles Field sets the tone in the secondary.

Craig T. Greenlee is a sportswriter for the Greensboro (N.C.) News & Record.

1. MONMOUTH

2. WAGNER

3. ROBERT MORRIS

4. CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE

5. ST. FRANCIS (PA.)

By CHAD A. SAFRAN

The Northeast Conference lives by the time-honored bride's rule: "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue."

The old is St. Francis (Pa.), whose football program outdates any of its conference brethren, having begun in 1892. The new can be attributed to the conference itself, which awards championships in 16 other sports. Football becomes No. 17 when the winner is crowned in November. Also fairly new are the teams at Monmouth and Robert Morris, each entering their fourth year of existence.

Central Connecticut State gets the borrowed and blue all to itself. The school is considered an associate member, conference participants in football and women's soccer only. And the blue is because of Central Connecticut's nickname (the Blue Devils).

While the five teams involved often scheduled each other yearly anyway, the chance to add to the trophy case excites the coaches. "It gives you a better challenge when you are in a conference," said current Robert Morris and former New York Jets coach Joe Walton. "When you are battling for position, it gives you more focus."

1. MONMOUTH HAWKS

OVERVIEW: With an aggressive, attacking defense, the Hawks nickname fits Monmouth perfectly. In 1995, the Hawks (7-3) finished third nationally in total defense (248.8 yards per game) and sixth in scoring defense (11.8 points per game), and all 11 starters return for coach Kevin Callahan.

Middle linebacker Anthony Berke registered 80 tackles and three sacks as the team's defensive MVP. Joe Little, the Hawks' top tackler in 1995 with 88, flanks Berke on the outside, while defensive lineman Nick Szymanski (4½ sacks) provides plenty of pressure up front.

On offense, quarterback Dan Sabella supplies the leadership for a balanced attack. The 6-foot-2 junior completed 58 percent of his passes for 2,149 yards and 17 touchdowns. Ralph O'Neil is the leading returning rusher (772 yards, 5.1 yards per carry). The backs have the advantage of running through holes that monster tackle Dominic Cuniglio (6-3, 290) creates.

A questionable kicking game remains Callahan's biggest concern. Jim Varick made only 8 of 12 extra points and 6 of 11 field goals.

2. WAGNER SEAHAWKS

OVERVIEW: Coach Walt Hameline has entered seasons with a lack of depth and uncertainties before in his 15-year career at Wagner, so he heads into this year perfectly prepared to deal with a number of question marks.

I-AA

NORTHEAST

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

DAN SABELLA, MONMOUTH

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

BILL SOMMERS, WAGNER

Running back Kito Lockwood graduated (1,332 all-purpose yards), but sophomore running back Rick Sarille (830 rushing yards) readily steps into the role of ground option No. 1. Behind him, however, only senior Gerard Doroski (132 yards) posted more than 100 yards last year. All this means more air time for quarterback Jason Miletic (1,321 yards, 12 TDs, 6 INTs).

The defensive front remains the conference's best. The group limited opposing runners to 2.2 yards per carry and improves with 6-2, 250-pound junior Justin Abel (team-high 66 tackles) and Ryan Linder (61 tackles) moving from linebacker to the front four alongside defensive end Bill Sommers (10 sacks). The secondary, however, must improve after allowing 180 yards per game in 1995.

3. ROBERT MORRIS COLONIALS

OVERVIEW: Change is in the air for the Colonials in 1996 as they must overcome the loss of their leading ground gainer. Fullback Tim Hall, who rushed for 1,572 yards and 16 touchdowns and caught 31 passes for 333 yards in 1995, accounted for over half of Robert Morris' offense.

The Colonials (6-4) have third-year starter Jake Newman at quarterback to provide stability. Newman missed time last year with assorted injuries but still tossed 10 touchdowns.

In addition to lacking a solid set of receivers, Newman will work behind an offensive line which Walton calls "a jumble."

The Colonials' strength is their defense. Honorable mention All-America linebacker Nate List (71 tackles, 5 INTs) heads the aggressive corps. Brian Dunn (59 tackles, 4 INTs) and Dante Payne (39 tackles) form a quality duo in the secondary.

4. CENTRAL CONN. STATE BLUE DEVILS

OVERVIEW: Instead of home being where the heart is for the Blue Devils (2-8), they rely on the phrase, "House is where the offense is"—the House being junior tailback Stan House, who rushed for 795 yards and seven touchdowns and caught 26 passes (second-best on the team).

Coach Sal Cintorino seeks a banner season from quarterback John O'Reilly (1,330 yards, 7 TDs, 14 INTs), who needs more consistency in his second season as Central Connecticut's starter. O'Reilly completed just 43 percent of his throws in 1996 and 340 of his passing yards came in one game—a 40-35 loss to Wagner.

The Blue Devils run defense struggled last year, allowing 2,051 yards. It improves this season as linebacker Jerry Harney returns from a knee injury that kept him out all of 1995. He serves as one of the catalysts for the defense along with fellow linebackers Ed Zaskey (95 tackles) and Brian Clements (41 tackles). Defensive tackle Steve Konopka recorded a team-high six sacks and 70 tackles as a freshman.

5. ST. FRANCIS (PA.) RED FLASH

OVERVIEW: Things can only get easier for Pete Mayock in his second year as head coach at St. Francis, considering the Red Flash (0-10) failed to win a game in 1995. "We spent the whole season looking for answers," Mayock said.

And plenty of questions remain unresolved heading into 1996, particularly at quarterback. Senior Joseph Ranft returns for his final year after throwing for 1,196 yards last season, but two sophomores, Dwayne Eddy and Shawn Lamonde, will be among those challenging Ranft.

Whoever plays quarterback, however, stands behind a veteran offensive line. Guards Matt Marciak and Ben Henry, along with center Mike Manning, provide solid pass protection. Should the passing game not come to fruition, the trio will be relied upon even more heavily to open holes for running back Jeff Sotosky (506 yards).

On the other side of the ball, St. Francis returns nine starters with senior defensive end Gregg Gergely leading the way.

Shoulder and ankle problems plagued Gergely the last few seasons, but if healthy he can dominate up front at 6-2, 260 pounds. Sophomore safeties Pat McKenna and Dom Taddei anchor the secondary. They finished with 96 and 75 tackles, respectively, in 1995 but need more help from linebacker Matt Farabough (69 tackles).

ALL-NORTHEAST TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	DAN SABELLA	MONMOUTH	6-2/205	Jr.
RB	RICK SARILLE	WAGNER	5-11/180	Soph.
RB	STAN HOUSE	CENTRAL CONN. ST.	5-11/195	Jr.
WR	WILLIAM HOLDER	MONMOUTH	6-0/180	Jr.
WR	SEAN HURLEY	WAGNER	5-10/160	Sr.
TE	L.T. BROWN	CENTRAL CONN. ST.	6-4/220	Soph.
OL	DOM CUNIGLIO	MONMOUTH	6-3/290	Sr.
OL	MICHAEL GRAHAM	CENTRAL CONN. ST.	6-3/260	Sr.
OL	CHAD MORAN	WAGNER	6-2/275	Soph.
OL	RANDY MARCANO	WAGNER	6-0/220	Sr.
OL	KEVIN NEIL	ROBERT MORRIS	6-4/285	Sr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	NICK SZYMANSKI	MONMOUTH	6-3/250	Sr.
DL	STEVE KONOPKA	CENTRAL CONN. ST.	6-4/230	Soph.
DL	JASON HEINLEY	ROBERT MORRIS	6-3/225	Jr.
DL	BILL SOMMERS	WAGNER	6-2/225	Sr.
LB	MATT FARABOUGH	ST. FRANCIS	5-11/205	Soph.
LB	NATE LIST	ROBERT MORRIS	6-3/205	Jr.
LB	ANTHONY BERKE	MONMOUTH	5-10/215	Sr.
DB	PAT MCKENNA	ST. FRANCIS	6-1/185	Soph.
DB	BRIAN DUNN	ROBERT MORRIS	6-1/185	Jr.
DB	MICHAEL JAMES	MONMOUTH	6-1/170	Sr.
DB	DANTE PAYNE	ROBERT MORRIS	5-10/190	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	CARL FRANKE	WAGNER	6-0/195	Jr.
P	MATT SHONTOPSKI	ST. FRANCIS	6-3/205	Sr.
RS	RICK SARILLE	WAGNER	5-11/180	Soph.

OHIO VALLEY

I-AA

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

MIKE CHERRY, MURRAY STATE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

TONY MCCOMBS, E. KENTUCKY

By DEAN FOX

At first glance, it seems Eastern Kentucky's stranglehold on the Ohio Valley Conference is slipping. After all, the Colonels boasted a formidable returning cast heading into last season and still finished second behind upstart Murray State. And if Eastern Illinois had joined the OVC last season—and not this year—EKU might have finished third.

But those predicting EKU's demise better think twice. The Colonels haven't gone two years without winning the conference crown since the Carter administration, and linebacker Tony McCombs and running back William Murrell spark the effort to keep that streak intact.

1. EASTERN KENTUCKY COLONELS

OVERVIEW: Despite their record, the Colonels (9-3 overall, 7-1 conference) couldn't have been too happy with the season. A 17-7 loss to Murray State ended dreams of a third straight OVC title, and the year ended with a 48-0 postseason drubbing at Montana. But McCombs (108 tackles) and Murrell (982 yards, 16 TDs) are determined to make 1996 better. McCombs is the OVC's top linebacker and teams with defensive end David Hoelscher (seven sacks) to form a fearsome pass rush. After floundering late in the season, EKU's offense must restart if the Colonels are to regain their title. Murrell's 16

touchdowns last season were second in the conference. The bad news? TE Jason Dunn, a second-round draft pick of the Philadelphia Eagles, will be missed.

2. MURRAY STATE RACERS

OVERVIEW: Like a lightning bolt, RB Derrick Cullors turned the Racers (11-1, 8-0) from also-rans into champions. But the one-year transfer graduated, leaving quarterback Mike Cherry to complete the transformation. Cherry, a transfer from Arkansas, benefitted from everyone keying on Cullors and led the OVC in passing efficiency last year. Whether he can do it again rests on the ability of running back David McCann (11 TDs) to pick up Cullors' slack. Defensively, Murray State was also excellent. William Hampton returned four interceptions for touchdowns and also was one of the OVC's top punt returners. He and two other teammates—Renardo Hampton and Kenny Thomas—make up perhaps the best secondary in I-AA.

3. MID. TENN. STATE BLUE RAIDERS

OVERVIEW: The Blue Raiders (7-4, 6-2) join Division I-A in two years and would love to grab an OVC title before then. But they must find a way to overcome Murray State and Eastern Kentucky. Quarterback Jonathan Quinn, a transfer from Tulane, helped steady the ship after the loss of four-year starter Kelly Holcomb. If smallish Lebrion McGill can hold up over a full year, the offense should be set. Defensively, the Blue Raiders rely on ends Anthony McCord and Anthony Hicks. McCord was second in the conference in sacks, and his pass rush helps a secondary that got its feet wet last year.

4. EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHERS

OVERVIEW: The Panthers move to the OVC from the Gateway Conference, taking the place of Morehead State (a non-scholarship I-AA independent) and strengthening the conference. After posting their first winning record in five seasons two years ago, the Panthers broke through in 1995, going 10-2 and losing in the first round of the I-AA playoffs. While a third straight winning year is possible, Eastern Illinois will struggle to keep up with the conference mainstays. The big reason? Quarterback Pete Mauch and running back Willie High—79 percent of the offense—graduated.

5. TENNESSEE-MARTIN SKYHAWKS

OVERVIEW: The Skyhawks (5-6, 4-4) unveiled a new nickname (formerly Pacers) in '95 as well as a new passing attack, led by quarterback Jeff McCrone and some capable receivers. They opened with a 97-7 rout over NAIA member Bethel College but couldn't nab a winning record. McCrone and his receivers are the Skyhawks' strength, but improving the OVC's worst running game couldn't hurt. Also, the offensive line—led by Richard Couré—must make progress. The defense was very good last year but must find replacements for lineman Brad Godwin and

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. EASTERN KENTUCKY
2. MURRAY STATE
3. MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE
4. EASTERN ILLINOIS
5. TENNESSEE-MARTIN
6. SE MISSOURI STATE
7. TENNESSEE STATE
8. AUSTIN PEAY
9. TENNESSEE TECH

cornerback Fred Thomas.

6. SE MISSOURI STATE INDIANS

OVERVIEW: Teams found out last season that the Indians (5-6, 5-3) had trouble stopping the run and exploited the weakness. SEMO was 5-0 when holding teams under 30 points but 0-6 when it couldn't. Shoring up the defense will be a priority for linebacker Robert Haggerty, whose 136 tackles tied for the OVC lead last year. A young defensive line must improve, too, for the Indians to be competitive. Offense is a question mark. Thousand-yard rusher Dione Tyler graduated, as did quarterback Shane Kennedy and receiver Renaldo Lampkins.

7. TENNESSEE STATE TIGERS

OVERVIEW: New coach L.C. Cole takes over the program from Bill Davis after Tigers fans were upset over a 2-9 (1-7 conference) record. The talent is there—ask Murray State, which nipped Tennessee State at Nashville in mid-November. Part of the problem, however, is that most of last year's team graduated. Receiver Jerome Hurd II and running back Jarrick Hillary return, but the Tigers must find a new quarterback and offensive line. Linebacker Ryan Falker leads a defense that performed better than the team's record. If the offense can avoid turnovers this year (it was minus-16 in turnover ratio), a better season is possible.

8. AUSTIN PEAY GOVERNORS

OVERVIEW: The Governors were beginning to make strides when they were upset by Morehead State in late October, starting a slide that came to a halt at 3-8 (2-6)—their 11th straight losing record. Receiver Gary Williams developed into one of the OVC's best last year, but the Governors must find a replacement for quarterback Lance Hoeltke. Jacob Dickson leads a decent running game. Big-play linebacker Phillip Hancock must be the catalyst for a defense that loses most of its starters. Austin Peay opponents scored 26 or more points in every game but two.

9. TENNESSEE TECH GOLDEN EAGLES

OVERVIEW: For the first time in a decade, the Golden Eagles (3-8, 2-6) have a new coach. Defensive coordinator Mike Hennigan takes over for Jim Ragland, who resigned at season's end. The big question for Tech is at running back. Michael Penix graduated as the school's second all-time leading rusher, and no obvious replacement exists. Quarterback Jamie Sander made strides but loses favorite target Gerald Bentley. Enemy quarterbacks hate facing Robert Taylor, who has 11 interceptions the past two seasons. But the rest of the defense must show consistency.

Dean Fox is a sportswriter for the Clarksville (Tenn.) Leaf-Chronicle.

ALL-OHIO VALLEY TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	MIKE CHERRY	MURRAY STATE	6-4/220	Sr.
RB	WILLIAM MURRELL	E. KENTUCKY	5-8/184	Sr.
RB	DAVID MCCANN	MURRAY STATE	5-11/190	Sr.
WR	DEE MOSTILLER	MID. TENN. ST.	5-7/160	Sr.
WR	JEROME HURD II	TENNESSEE ST.	6-2/195	Sr.
WR	GARY WILLIAMS	AUSTIN PEAY	6-0/175	Sr.
OL	MARK ROBINSON	MURRAY STATE	6-3/270	Jr.
OL	RICHARD COURE	TENN.-MARTIN	6-6/255	Jr.
OL	MIKE NIELSEN	SE MISSOURI ST.	6-2/285	Sr.
OL	LEMONT CLARK	E. ILLINOIS	6-3/325	Sr.
OL	BRIAN COX	MURRAY STATE	6-0/250	Jr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	ANTHONY MCCORD	MID. TENN. ST.	6-0/230	Sr.
DL	ANTHONY HUTCH	MURRAY STATE	6-4/275	Sr.
DL	ANTHONY HICKS	MID. TENN. ST.	6-2/208	Sr.
DL	BRIAN MCGAVOCK	E. ILLINOIS	6-0/250	Sr.
LB	TONY MCCOMBS	E. KENTUCKY	6-2/239	Sr.
LB	RONNIE MERRITT	MURRAY STATE	6-2/225	Jr.
LB	ROBERT HAGGERTY	SE MISSOURI ST.	6-2/215	Sr.
DB	WILLIAM HAMPTON	MURRAY STATE	6-1/175	Sr.
DB	ROBERT TAYLOR	TENNESSEE TECH	6-0/175	Sr.
DB	RENARDO HAMPTON	MURRAY STATE	5-9/160	Sr.
DB	KENNY THOMAS	MURRAY STATE	6-2/185	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	RYAN KELLY	TENNESSEE TECH	5-9/180	Sr.
P	BRANDON THOMAS	MID. TENN. ST.	6-0/190	Jr.
RS	WILLIAM HAMPTON	MURRAY STATE	6-1/175	Sr.

1. LEHIGH
2. LAFAYETTE
3. BUCKNELL
4. HOLY CROSS
5. FORDHAM
6. COLGATE

By CORKY BLAKE

It took two overtime periods in college football's longest-running rivalry to determine the 1995 Patriot League champion. All-America receiver Brian Klingerman grabbed a touchdown pass from league MVP Bob Aylsworth to lift Lehigh past visiting Lafayette, 37-30 in their 131st meeting.

Klingerman and Aylsworth graduated, but Lehigh returns virtually everyone else, so it is no surprise, then, that the Engineers are favored to win a second straight title and third in four years. Lafayette has other intentions, however. The Leopards' last two league championships came in 1992 and 1994, both years they hosted Lehigh in the season finale. We're in an even year, so ...

1. LEHIGH ENGINEERS

OVERVIEW: The Engineers (8-3 overall, 5-0 Patriot League) committed to balancing their nationally ranked passing attack with a competent running game. Lehigh again led the league in passing, and tailback Rabi Abdullah (school-record 1,536 yards) emerged as one of the best backs in the East.

The return of Abdullah should benefit the Engineers as they break in a new quarterback. Senior Aaron Brown (6-foot-4, 205 pounds) is as gifted as any past Lehigh quarterback. The question is whether Brown can handle Lehigh's intricate passing offense without Klingerman (77 catches, 1,040 yards, 10 TDs) around. At least the line returns first-team all-league tackle Brian Bartelle (6-3, 295) and guard Doug Yates (6-2, 275) along with three other starters.

"Replacing a quarterback and wide receiver who made so many big, big plays is a major question mark," said coach Kevin Higgins. "When Aaron played before, there was no pressure. Now, expectations are awfully high. He'll have to produce."

The Engineers return nine starters from a gambling defense. Middle linebacker Lance Eckenrode and free safety Mark Miller both registered more than 100 tackles, while cornerbacks Tahir Rivers and Curtis May combined for six interceptions.

2. LAFAYETTE LEOPARDS

OVERVIEW: The Leopards (4-6-1, 3-2) need to avoid injuries that forced them to start freshmen at tailback, offensive guard and defensive tackle last season.

Rookie of the Year tailback Leonard Moore didn't start until the seventh game but still ran for 665 yards. Junior quarterback Shawn McHale (143-of-297 passing, 1,741 yards) is a three-year starter. A deep receiving corps includes Quincy Miller (24 catches, 550 yards).

The Leopards' defense is one of the largest in the league and does not hesitate to blitz 6-5, 240-pound junior Dan Bengel from his outside linebacker position. But there is a chance Bengel could move inside in the 4-3 setup to compensate for the grad-

I-AA

PATRIOT

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

RABIH ABDULLAH, LEHIGH

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

DAVID STREETER, HOLY CROSS

uation of Rawle Howard. First-team cornerback Tadj Chatman and second-team safety B.J. Gallis make it difficult to pass deep against the Leopards.

3. BUCKNELL BISON

OVERVIEW: Bucknell senior tailback Rich Lemon (5-8, 160) has a chance to become the first Division I-AA player ever to rush for 1,000 yards in each of his four seasons. His career totals of 3,944 yards on 787 attempts put him within range of surpassing both the league record of 4,834 yards rushing and the I-AA record of 1,027 carries, both set by Lafayette's Erik Marsh (1991-'94).

Quarterback Jim Fox's development should lighten Lemon's load. The 6-5, 225-pound senior completed 192 of 344 of his passes for 2,199 yards. Junior tackle Mariusz Misiec (6-3, 290) and sophomore guard Patrik Jonsson (6-3, 300) return for Bucknell (7-4, 4-1).

Three out of four starters in the defensive backfield, defensive end Hunter Adams (6-5, 270) and outside linebackers Brandon Little and Willie Hill all return from a unit which ranked 16th in I-AA football in total defense last season.

"My biggest concern [defensively] isn't the talent we have," coach Tom Gadd said, "but whether we have the leadership and toughness of last year."

4. HOLY CROSS CRUSADERS

OVERVIEW: After four seasons, the Crusaders (2-9, 1-4) axed coach Peter Vaas, whose job was to keep the program a winner after it relinquished its scholarships to comply with the financial need-based Patriot League. Dan Allen, the former Boston University head coach who had been an assistant at Holy Cross from 1982-'89, takes over.

"We have the same type of kid at Holy Cross as we did before," Allen said. "They're achievers and hard workers. It's our job to build up their confidence to win again."

The Crusaders will operate from the run-and-shoot and other one-back sets behind sophomore quarterback Dan Bolland (6-4, 195). Second-team all-league junior Brian Hopkins (45 catches, 639 yards) and Jeff Laboranti (47 catches, 548 yards) are the top receivers and tailback J.R. Walz, the league's 1994 co-Rookie of the Year, should excel.

Middle linebacker David Streeter (6-1, 220) led the league with 159 tackles and should help the Crusaders' transition from a 3-4 to 4-3 alignment.

5. FORDHAM RAMS

OVERVIEW: The Rams (4-6-1, 2-3) enjoyed a breakthrough season. They were still in the title hunt in November after going 2-23 in their first five seasons in the league. "Everyone's on the same page now, and we've set a new level of expectations," said Rams head coach Nick Quartaro.

Tackle Carl Barbera, a 6-3, 255-pound All-American candidate, and second-team all-league linebackers Jack Pieracini (115 tackles) and Tim Baumgardner (83 tackles) spearhead a defense that will be pressured to keep the Rams in games

until a young offense comes around.

Center Cory Bailey (6-3, 255) and guards Mark Bourke (6-5, 275) and Ryan Stefan (6-1, 264) anchor protection for Quartaro's three-receiver offense. The successor to record-setting quarterback Joe Moorhead will be either senior Kevin Szocik or sophomore Dan Madine. Junior Larry Leith is a threat as a wide receiver (31 catches, 461 yards) and kickoff returner (league-leading 23.5-yard avg.).

6. COLGATE RED RAIDERS

OVERVIEW: The Red Raiders (0-11, 0-5) fired Ed Sweeney and elevated Dick Biddle, who served two stints as an assistant at Colgate. His prime weapons are junior quarterback Mark Lindell (148-of-282 passing, 1,830 yards, 10 INTs, 7 TDs) and junior fullback Daymon Smith (792 yards). Junior Jamal Patterson and senior Anthony Caravetta split time at tailback. Senior tackle Jack Durkin (6-3, 277) is one of five returnees on the line.

Colgate was last in rushing defense (281.5 yards per game) and is switching from a 4-4 to a 4-3. Junior Matt Domyancic (108 tackles) leads seven returning linebackers, and senior cornerbacks Marcus Cameron (first-team all-league in 1994) and Aaron Byrd-Leitner strengthen the secondary.

Corky Blake covers the Patriot League for The Easton (Pa.) Express-Times.

ALL-PATRIOT TEAM

OFFENSE				
POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	Jim Fox	Bucknell	6-5/225	Sr.
RB	Rabi Abdullah	Lehigh	6-1/200	Sr.
RB	Rich Lemon	Bucknell	5-8/160	Sr.
WR	Quincy Miller	Lafayette	6-2/230	Sr.
WR	Brian Hopkins	Holy Cross	6-3/205	Jr.
TE	David Meurer	Lehigh	6-6/225	Sr.
OL	Brian Bartelle	Lehigh	6-3/295	Sr.
OL	Mariusz Misiec	Bucknell	6-3/290	Jr.
OL	Doug Yates	Lehigh	6-2/275	Sr.
OL	Mike Zmiorowski	Holy Cross	6-3/285	Sr.
OL	Cory Bailey	Fordham	6-3/255	Jr.
DEFENSE				
POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	Carl Barbera	Fordham	6-3/255	Sr.
DL	Hunter Adams	Bucknell	6-5/270	Jr.
DL	David Sunderland	Lehigh	6-4/270	Sr.
DL	Mike Shelley	Fordham	6-3/235	Soph.
LB	David Streeter	Holy Cross	6-1/220	Sr.
LB	Lance Eckenrode	Lehigh	6-1/220	Sr.
LB	Dan Bengel	Lafayette	6-5/240	Jr.
DB	Tadj Chatman	Lafayette	6-0/180	Sr.
DB	Mark Miller	Lehigh	6-1/180	Sr.
DB	B.J. Gallis	Lafayette	6-3/210	Sr.
DB	Marcus Cameron	Colgate	6-0/190	Sr.
SPECIAL TEAMS				
POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	Rich Miller	Bucknell	6-1/196	Sr.
P	Ben Talbot	Lehigh	6-2/190	Sr.
RS	Larry Leith	Fordham	5-9/166	Jr.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

JASON GROVE, DRAKE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

JEB DOUGHERTY, SAN DIEGO

By DAVE SIMINOFF

The Drake Bulldogs had it all figured out last season. The only way to get ahead of the Dayton Flyers in the Pioneer League standings was to get ahead—quickly.

The Flyers, who won or shared the conference crown the first two seasons, outscored their opponents 251-81 in the first half last season. But the Bulldogs somehow managed to escape their Oct. 21 meeting with a slim 13-10 halftime lead, enough to propel them to a 34-23 victory and their first Pioneer championship.

Drake, which posted two shutouts and allowed just 10.5 points per game, and Dayton again appear to be the teams to beat in the Pioneer, but San Diego may have a say. Although the Toreros, who return nine offensive starters, have to play at Drake, they host Dayton Nov. 16 in a game that could decide this year's conference champion in the PFL.

Butler comes off a campaign and must replace two-time PFL rushing champion Arnold Mickens, but the Bulldogs return 19 of 24 starters, including their entire offensive line.

1. DRAKE BULLDOGS

OVERVIEW: The focus of the league's running game shifts from Indianapolis to Des Moines, Iowa. With Mickens gone, Drake (8-1-1 overall, 5-0 Pioneer)

now possesses the two best pure running backs in sophomore Jason Grove (754 yards, 3 TDs) and junior Charlie Schimberg (651 yards, 8 TDs). Drake's dynamic duo should increase its production behind a solid line led by mammoth tackle Felix Gallagher, a 6-foot-4, 306-pound senior.

Defensively, Drake has potential all-conference performers on the line, at linebacker and in the backfield. End Jace Smrcka, a 6-6, 255-pound junior, was second on the team with five sacks; linebacker Anthony Fuller, a 5-10, 203-pound senior, had 65 total tackles to finish third on the squad; and defensive back Jeramy Fisher tied for first in interceptions with three and was second in tackles with 77.

2. SAN DIEGO TOREROS

OVERVIEW: Coach Brian Fogarty's team posted its first two conference road victories last season after going winless away from California in the league's first two years. The Toreros (5-5, 3-2) finished third in the PFL last season, a game behind Dayton, but could reverse that this year.

"I thought we might make a run last year, but we didn't play as well as we would've liked offensively because we were so young," Fogarty said. "The year's experience should make a big difference."

The key cog in San Diego's wing-T offense is wingback Evan Hlavacek, a 5-11, 170-pound senior. Last season, he had 377 yards and four touchdowns receiving, 161 yards and five touchdowns on the ground and returned a kickoff 95 yards for another score. "The main thing is his speed," Fogarty said. "If Evan gets a step on you, you've got a problem."

The Toreros also are counting on improved play from 6-2, 200-pound senior quarterback John Khamis (49-of-102 passing for 801 yards, 6 TDs) and solid blocking from junior tackle Jon Walker (6-0, 275).

The defensive leaders are inverts (combination outside linebackers/strong safeties) Jeb Dougherty, a 6-0, 185-pound senior, and Sal Navarra, a 5-11, 182-pound junior. They tied for second on the team last season with 88 total tackles apiece.

3. DAYTON FLYERS

OVERVIEW: In 1995, the Flyers (9-2, 4-1) were 9-0 when leading at halftime and 7-0 at home. But a disturbing trend developed—Dayton allowed 44 percent of its total points in the fourth quarter.

Coach Mike Kelly must replace six starters from a defense that allowed 16.4 ppg and an average of 281.8 yards, including 154.9 on the ground. The unit is led by senior linebacker Jim Homoki (91 tackles) and senior Chris Fluharty (4 INTs).

Offensively, the Flyers look to junior Kevin Johns to take over for quarterback Brian Kadel, who finished his career as the top-rated passer in Division I-AA. Other offensive keys are senior receiver Pat Hugar (7 TDs), junior running back Chad Muterspaw (13 TDs), junior kicker Ryan Hulme, senior linemen Zack Cline, a 6-2, 261-pound tackle, and Josh Lemmon, a 6-2, 220-pound GTE Academic All-District guard.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. DRAKE

2. SAN DIEGO

3. DAYTON

4. BUTLER

5. VALPARAISO

6. EVANSVILLE

4. BUTLER BULLDOGS

OVERVIEW: The Mickens Era is over at Butler (2-8, 1-4). In two seasons, Mickens rushed for 3,813 yards and 29 touchdowns, including 1,558 last season. He led the PFL both years, was a first-team All America in 1994 and made the second team last season. The unenviable task of replacing Mickens falls to sophomore Naim Sanders (5-7, 195), who carried 25 times for 97 yards in 10 games last season.

"[Sanders] is a workhorse-type back," said Butler coach Ken LaRose. "He's quick—he's run a 4.6 in the 40—durable and compact."

Other offensive keys are senior receiver John Knight (500 yards, 2 TDs) and junior Eli Stoddard (6-1, 185), who takes over at quarterback.

Defensively, Butler should improve after allowing 31.4 points per game and an average of 249.4 rushing yards. The anchor of the defense is All-PFL nose guard Ron Griswold, a 5-11, 210-pound junior.

5. VALPARAISO CRUSADERS

OVERVIEW: In addition to solid offensive linemen Eric Rodbro at center and Michael Beebe at left guard, the Crusaders (5-5, 1-4) have a dangerous combination in senior quarterback Nick Browder and senior receiver Michael Tolbert. Browder threw for 1,780 yards and 14 touchdowns last season, while Tolbert caught 38 passes for 517 yards and four touchdowns. Junior fullback Bob Cracknell added 306 yards and two scores on the ground.

But the Crusaders will miss All-PFL offensive lineman Evan Fitzgerald, an Academic All-District V selection, who went to graduate school with one year of eligibility remaining.

On defense, Valparaiso has a solid left side with senior tackle Matt Kulp and senior end John Harrington. The secondary is also strong with senior cornerback Ronnie Sazone and junior free safety Ike Anigbo (88 tackles).

6. EVANSVILLE ACES

OVERVIEW: Evansville (5-5, 1-4) allowed only 18.2 points per game last season and returns junior end Jim Schaefer (6-1, 225), a first-team All-PFL pick, sophomore outside linebacker Mark Thomas (6-0, 180), a second-team selection, and junior outside linebacker Eric Gardner (6-0, 180) to form a solid nucleus. The questions are with inexperience in the secondary and on the line.

The Aces have some talent on offense, led by sophomore running backs Tony Salpietra (5-10, 180) and Bryan Jenkins (5-9, 170), as well as sophomore tight end Nate Kukla (6-3, 180) and All-PFL second-team senior center Tom Fravel (6-0, 225). Salpietra rushed for 463 yards and six touchdowns last season.

The wild cards are junior wide receiver Vince Twedell (6-3, 180), a transfer from Western Kentucky, and redshirt freshman quarterback Drew Purcell.

ALL-PIONEER TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	NICK BROWDER	VALPARAISO	6-2/184	Sr.
RB	JASON GROVE	DRAKE	6-1/200	Soph.
RB	CHARLIE SCHIMBERG	DRAKE	6-0/204	Jr.
WR	EVAN HLAVACEK	SAN DIEGO	5-11/170	Sr.
WR	MICHAEL TOLBERT	VALPARAISO	6-0/182	Sr.
TE	NATE KUKLA	EVANSVILLE	6-3/180	Soph.
OL	ZACK CLINE	DAYTON	6-2/261	Sr.
OL	TOM FRAVEL	EVANSVILLE	6-0/225	Sr.
OL	FELIX GALLAGHER	DRAKE	6-4/306	Sr.
OL	ERIC RODBRO	VALPARAISO	6-0/245	Soph.
OL	JON WALKER	SAN DIEGO	6-0/275	Jr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	RON GRISWOLD	BUTLER	5-11/210	Jr.
DL	MATT KULP	VALPARAISO	5-11/224	Sr.
DL	JIM SCHAEFER	EVANSVILLE	6-1/225	Jr.
DL	JACE SMRCKA	DRAKE	6-6/255	Jr.
LB	ANTHONY FULLER	DRAKE	5-10/203	Sr.
LB	JIM HOMOKI	DAYTON	6-0/200	Sr.
LB	SAL NAVARRA	SAN DIEGO	5-11/182	Jr.
DB	JEB DOUGHERTY	SAN DIEGO	6-0/185	Sr.
DB	JERAMY FISHER	DRAKE	6-0/191	Jr.
DB	CHRIS FLUHARTY	DAYTON	6-2/210	Sr.
DB	RONNIE SAZONE	VALPARAISO	5-6/157	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	RYAN HULME	DAYTON	6-1/185	Jr.
P	MIKE BUIHLER	SAN DIEGO	5-11/205	Sr.
RS	DAMON MOORE	BUTLER	5-9/170	Jr.

1. MARSHALL
2. APPALACHIAN STATE
3. GEORGIA SOUTHERN
4. EAST TENNESSEE STATE
5. FURMAN
6. VMI
7. TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA
8. WESTERN CAROLINA
9. THE CITADEL

By RICK RYAN

No surprises here. For the third straight year, Marshall and Appalachian State are expected to monopolize the top of the Southern Conference standings.

Marshall returns 19 starters from a team that powered its way to the I-AA championship game before losing to Montana, 22-20. Appalachian State returns 15 starters from a playoff squad that posted the school's first unbeaten, untied regular season, which included a coveted 10-3 win at Marshall.

"Last year, we probably had the edge because we had our quarterback coming back," said Appalachian coach Jerry Moore. "The roles are reversed this year. They've got their quarterback coming back."

1. MARSHALL THUNDERING HERD

OVERVIEW: Last year, Marshall entered the season as the league's only team searching for a starting quarterback. This year, the Herd and new coach Bob Pruett have three players who started at the position in 1995. Chad Pennington, who worked the last dozen games as a true freshman, is expected to claim the job after throwing for 2,199 regular-season yards and 15 touchdowns. Marshall (12-3 overall, 7-1 conference) loses All-America tailback Chris Parker but returns its top two receivers—junior tight end Jermaine Wiggins (58 recs.) and senior wideout Tim Martin (54 recs.).

On defense, 10 starters are back from a unit that led the league in fewest yards allowed and ranked second in the nation. Leading the way are two All-America candidates—senior tackle Billy Lyon and senior cornerback Melvin Cunningham.

2. APPALACHIAN STATE MOUNTAINEERS

OVERVIEW: The bad news for the Mountaineers (12-1, 8-0) is the loss of quarterback Scott Satterfield, a three-year starter, along with the entire defensive secondary.

The good news is the return of consensus All-America senior linebacker Dexter Coakley, twice voted the league's top defensive player, along with senior tailback Damon Scott (1,468 rushing yards).

The Mountaineers return nine starters from their multiple-I offense that ranked among the nation's leaders in rushing at nearly 253 yards per game. But the lack of an experienced quarterback slows the passing game. Last year's backup, junior Gerald Hardy, attended summer school to regain his academic eligibility, leaving junior Bake Baker, who did not throw a pass in two games of spot duty last season, as the starter.

3. GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLES

OVERVIEW: After six years as head coach, Tim Stowers was replaced on an interim basis by Frank Ellwood, a 21-year football veteran who

I-AA

SOUTHERN

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

THOMAS HASKINS, VMI

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

DEXTER COAKLEY, APPALACHIAN STATE

had a stint as Marshall's head coach from 1975-'78. His top returnee is junior quarterback Kenny Robinson, who should be back after sitting out 1995's final five games with a thigh injury.

Seven of the 13 returning starters line up on a defense that led the league with 36 forced turnovers. The Eagles (9-4, 5-3) have six of their front seven back, including senior end Edward Thomas (12 sacks), an All-America candidate.

4. EAST TENNESSEE STATE BUCCANEERS

OVERVIEW: The Buccaneers (4-7, 4-4), who were 0-7 on the road last season, return 16 starters and have the makings of an offensive powerhouse. Senior quarterback Greg Ryan is statistically the best in school history, with nearly 5,800 yards and 39 touchdowns in career passing.

Adding spark to the Bucs' attack are junior B.J. Adigun and senior Greg Johnson, two receivers who combined for 99 catches, 1,272 yards and 11 TDs. Tailback Brian Edwards, a 1,000-yard rusher as a freshman, is expected back after sitting out 1995 with academic problems.

5. FURMAN PALADINS

OVERVIEW: The Paladins (6-5, 5-3) fashioned their first winning season in three years, but they still haven't made the playoffs since 1990. Senior quarterback Braniff Bonaventure, one of seven returnees on offense, has a go-to guy in 248-pound senior tight end Luther Broughton (39 catches, 475 yards). Junior tailback Mark Moore (1,490 all-purpose yards) is a threat as a runner, receiver or kick returner.

All 11 defensive starters are back—including junior linebacker Jay Thier and junior defensive back Jeremy Osborne (111 tackles each).

6. VMI KEYDETS

OVERVIEW: Senior tailback Thomas Haskins isn't big (5-foot-8, 172 pounds), but his production is. The first-team All-America has led the conference in rushing the last two seasons. Four of his blocking buddies are among seven returning offensive starters for the Keydets (4-7, 3-5). Junior quarterback Al Lester has started 22 straight games and last year halved his interception total from 16 to eight.

Nine starters return on a defense that allowed more than 411 yards and 31 points per game. To remedy the situation, four defensive coaches have been replaced.

7. TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA MOCCASINS

OVERVIEW: The Moccasins (4-7, 2-6) have a dilemma—two quarterbacks who threw for more than 1,000 yards last year. Senior Jeff Peters started the season but, after a shoulder injury, gave way to Brian Hampton, then a true freshman.

The offense features six returning starters and junior running back Fran D'Anjou, a transfer from Mississippi State. Junior Ron Fauge, who led the team with 93 tackles from his free safety position, is one of eight starters back on defense.

8. WESTERN CAROLINA CATAMOUNTS

OVERVIEW: The Catamounts (3-7, 2-6) welcome back the fewest number of returning starters in the conference (four offense, six defense, one special teams). In fact, their entire outlook will be different on offense with four new coaches and a less-conservative pro-I attack, which hopes to improve the team's last-place conference standing in first downs, total yards and points.

The Catamounts must replace two-year starter Chad Greene at quarterback. The offensive line is the team's strong suit, with senior tackle Jimmy Butler (6-5, 285) and junior tight end Kawasaki Penn (6-5, 260).

9. THE CITADEL BULLDOGS

OVERVIEW: There's no place to go but up for the Bulldogs (2-9, 0-8), who suffered through their worst season in 77 years. Eight returning starters each on offense and defense help the healing process begin.

Sophomore quarterback Stanley Myers, a non-pass threat, mans the controls of the team's newly installed I-Bone attack. Coach Charlie Taaffe will act as his own offensive coordinator and call the plays.

Senior linebacker Scott Belcher, who led the conference in tackles with 180, heads the defense.

Rick Ryan is a staff writer for the Charleston (W. Va.) Gazette.

ALL-SOUTHERN TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	GREG RYAN	E. TENNESSEE STATE	5-10/195	Sr.
RB	THOMAS HASKINS	VMI	5-8/172	Sr.
RB	DAMON SCOTT	APPALACHIAN STATE	5-10/209	Sr.
WR	TIM MARTIN	MARSHALL	5-9/176	Sr.
WR	B.J. ADIGUN	E. TENNESSEE STATE	5-9/150	Jr.
TE	LUTHER BROUGHTON	FURMAN	6-2/248	Sr.
OL	CHAD GROOVER	APPALACHIAN STATE	6-6/298	Sr.
OL	JAMIE GLOVER	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	6-1/268	Sr.
OL	AARON GERGUSON	MARSHALL	6-3/280	Sr.
OL	SHAWN CLARK	APPALACHIAN STATE	6-5/275	Jr.
OL	SCOTT KADLUB	APPALACHIAN STATE	6-0/281	Sr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	BILLY LYON	MARSHALL	6-5/290	Sr.
DL	JAMES RUSSELL	E. TENNESSEE STATE	6-3/220	Sr.
DL	B.J. COHEN	MARSHALL	6-3/240	Jr.
DL	EDWARD THOMAS	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	6-0/216	Sr.
LB	DEXTER COAKLEY	APPALACHIAN STATE	5-11/205	Sr.
LB	GERMAINE SWAFFORD	MARSHALL	5-11/221	Sr.
LB	SCOTT BELCHER	THE CITADEL	6-1/219	Sr.
DB	DONNELL BRINSON	WESTERN CAROLINA	5-10/187	Sr.
DB	MELVIN CUNNINGHAM	MARSHALL	5-10/180	Sr.
DB	JEREMY OSBORNE	FURMAN	5-11/190	Jr.
DB	RON FAUGUE	UT-CHATTANOOGA	6-1/210	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
PK	TIM OPENLANDER	MARSHALL	5-10/175	Sr.
P	KENNETH WOROB	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	5-10/198	Soph.
KR	JOSH COLE	FURMAN	5-10/170	Sr.

SOUTHLAND

I-AA

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

DAMEIAN VALLERY, STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

ZACK BRONSON, McNEESE STATE

By KEVIN GORE

The Southland got a new name and new team during the off-season, giving it the potential to be the new powerhouse league on the I-AA block.

The Southland added one I-AA playoff team Troy State of Alabama to join league greybeards McNeese State and Stephen F. Austin, two squads that lost in the I-AA semifinals last year. Next year, the league will add yet another Alabama team—Jacksonville State—to the new-look and newly named Southland Football League.

McNeese, Stephen F. Austin and Troy State compiled a 31-1 regular-season record last season. The only loss was SFA's 38-16 setback to conference-winner McNeese State.

"That record speaks more for the league than anything," Stephen F. Austin coach John Pearce said. "Both our team and McNeese were semifinalists last year, and Troy State is always a strong team. With Jacksonville coming in next year, we think this will be one of the best, if not the best, I-AA leagues in the country."

1. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN LUMBERJACKS

OVERVIEW: For the first time since his first season at SFA, Pearce will have a new quarterback—senior Mike Quinn. The replacement for three-year starter James Ritchey, Quinn has seen spot

duty the last two seasons and is expected to be ready to lead the 'Jack Attack in his final year. He has the luxury of being in a versatile offense that will include running back Dameian Vallery, who rushed for 826 yards at SFA last year, and wide receiver Chris Jefferson (48 catches, 860 yards).

SFA (11-2 overall, 4-1 conf.) ranked first in the Southland in rushing offense (212.6 ypg.) and was third in passing offense (191.9 ypg.) last season.

The Lumberjacks' edge over the other conference teams will come from its defense, which lost just two starting linemen from a unit that ranked second to McNeese last season.

Sophomore linebacker Jeremiah Trotter and junior defensive end Curtis James are both fast and aggressive. The entire starting secondary, including all-league safety Damiyon Bell (4 INTs), returns.

2. McNEESE STATE COWBOYS

OVERVIEW: It was no secret that last year was the Cowboys' year to win it all.

McNeese, however, fell one game short of competing in the national title game with a semifinal loss to Marshall. The previous year, the Cowboys lost to Montana in the semifinals.

The Cowboys (13-1, 5-0) lost a ton of talent, but don't feel too sorry for coach Bobby Keasler. The Cowboys traditionally have the league's most head-knocking defense (40 forced turnovers last year) and will be tough to run or pass against with senior linebacker Carl Quiller (67 tackles) and senior All-America free safety Zack Bronson (87 tackles, 5 INTs) back at their positions.

Only four offensive starters return. Three are linemen, and the other is senior fullback Rusty Struppeck, a great lead blocker for Keasler's I-formation.

3. TROY STATE TROJANS

OVERVIEW: Newcomer Troy State has a number of question marks in its effort to reach the playoffs for the fourth consecutive season.

The Trojans (11-1) return fullback Joe Jackson and lineman Scott Childers (6-3, 270) to a multiple-offense set that boasts just four returning starters. Jackson, however, is a key player in the Trojans' plans. He rushed for 509 yards last season and will block in both the option running game and for new quarterback Stan Davis.

The Trojans played a vanilla defense last season with few gimmicks. They may have to gamble a little more this season. Senior Pratt Lyons (6-4, 280) and junior Stacy Murry (6-3, 265) give Troy size and strength up front, but the defense lost its best linebacker and all four secondary starters.

4. SAM HOUSTON STATE BEARKATS

OVERVIEW: Sam Houston (5-5, 2-3) could make a move in the league with six offensive and seven defensive starters back. Junior quarterback Chad Schramek threw for 1,025 yards in nine games last season, but he delivered three times more interceptions (9) than touchdown passes (3). His

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

2. McNEESE STATE

3. TROY STATE

4. SAM HOUSTON STATE

5. SOUTHWEST TEXAS

6. NORTHWESTERN STATE

7. NICHOLLS STATE

favorite target is tight end Kevin Pesak, who caught 31 passes. The Bearcats must get more production from their running game, which ranked fifth in the SLC last year. Tailback Wayne Coleman is the best bet to carry the running game after a 754-yard season.

The Bearcats return their top three tacklers, including linebacker Dedrick Manigo (113).

5. SOUTHWEST TEXAS BOBCATS

OVERVIEW: The Bobcats (4-7, 2-3) return some impressive offensive players, but they will need the defense to improve to have any success in this league. Nine defensive starters—led by senior linebacker Ypres Thomas (116 tackles)—return from a unit that allowed 37 touchdowns.

Drop-back quarterback David Williams threw for 2,395 yards as a junior and is the top returner in the league at his position. He will direct what could be an explosive pro-style offense that includes speedy running back Claude Mathis (1,286 yards, 11 TDs), wide receiver Aaron Allen (44 receptions) and tight end Russell Peavy (25).

6. NORTHWESTERN STATE DEMONS

OVERVIEW: Head coach Sam Goodwin has plenty of work ahead for the Demons (6-5, 2-3) to make some noise. Twenty-four seniors were on last year's team, yet it was the loss of a junior that could signal a dramatic fall in the league standings. Tailback Clarence Matthews (1,384 yards) entered the NFL draft a year early, leaving the Demons without a premier runner in their multiple-pro-I offense.

Auburn transfer Roymon Malcolm will replace Matthews, but he is virtually untested. Another first-time starter—possibly sophomore Warren Patterson—will replace quarterback Brad Laird, the Demons' career passing leader.

The defense lost 10 starters from a unit that ranked just below McNeese and Stephen F. Austin in total defense last season.

7. NICHOLLS STATE COLONELS

OVERVIEW: A winless season (0-11, 0-5) led head coach Darren Barbier to sign 36 recruits, including 32 freshmen, in an effort to improve a team that was last in the league in offense and defense.

The offense will be in the hands of sophomore quarterback Brad Zeller, who started the team's final four games and gives Nicholls State, traditionally an option-running team, more of a passing threat. Also back are kicker Adam Diel and running backs Nakia Lumar and Terrence Spears.

Barbier's biggest task will be toughening a defense that yielded 50 touchdowns last season. Lineman John Emery, a 6-2, 260-pound Tennessee transfer should help.

Kevin Gore covers the Southland Conference for the Nacogdoches (Texas) Daily Sentinel.

ALL-SOUTHLAND TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	DAVID WILLIAMS	SOUTHWEST TEXAS	6-2/210	Jr.
RB	CLAUDE MATHIS	SOUTHWEST TEXAS	5-9/185	Jr.
RB	DAMEIAN VALLERY	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	6-2/210	Jr.
WR	CHRIS JEFFERSON	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	6-0/205	Sr.
WR	MAURICE STRINGER	TROY STATE	5-11/185	Sr.
TE	KEVIN PESAK	SAM HOUSTON STATE	6-3/228	Jr.
OL	GREG REYNOLDS	NICHOLLS STATE	6-2/273	Sr.
OL	ADAM MEANS	SOUTHWEST TEXAS	6-2/270	Jr.
OL	JODY FERGUSON	NORTHWESTERN STATE	6-1/307	Jr.
OL	CRAIG WARREN	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	6-6/315	Sr.
OL	DERRICK HENNIGAN	McNEESE STATE	6-3/270	Jr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	CURTIS JAMES	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	6-1/230	Jr.
DL	CLINT ZANDER	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	6-5/280	Jr.
DL	PRATT LYONS	TROY STATE	6-4/280	Sr.
DL	STACE WILLIAMS	SOUTHWEST TEXAS	6-4/270	Jr.
LB	JEREMIAH TROTTER	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	6-3/220	Soph.
LB	DEDRICK MANIGO	SAM HOUSTON STATE	6-2/234	Sr.
LB	YPRES THOMAS	SOUTHWEST TEXAS	6-1/235	Sr.
DB	ZACK BRONSON	McNEESE STATE	6-1/200	Sr.
DB	MARCUS DANIELS	McNEESE STATE	5-11/190	Sr.
DB	DAMIYON BELL	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	5-11/178	Sr.
DB	DEMETRIC SHIPMAN	TROY STATE	5-10/175	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	MARCUS HAJDOK	SAM HOUSTON STATE	5-11/160	Sr.
P	RYAN KLAUS	SAM HOUSTON STATE	6-3/175	Soph.
RS	CLAUDE MATHIS	SOUTHWEST TEXAS	5-9/185	Jr.

1. SOUTHERN
2. JACKSON STATE
3. ALABAMA STATE
4. GRAMBLING
5. ALCORN STATE
6. MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
7. TEXAS SOUTHERN
8. PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

By O.K. DAVIS

Just call Southern's Pete Richardson "Mr. Miracle Worker." Fans at the Baton Rouge-based school probably think of him that way, what with the Jaguars' resurgence in the Southwestern Athletic Conference. In Richardson's three years as head coach, Southern has gone 28-7, including 18-3 against league teams. His 1993 club won a conference championship, marking the first time the school had enjoyed such an achievement since 1975.

"Pete's Pack" is the only SWAC school to win at least 10 games in a season during the last four years, including a conference-best 11-1 record in 1995. Last year, they were the runner-ups.

And the good times are going to keep rollin' down in the Bayou this fall. With an experienced assemblage of offensive and defensive stars returning, Southern is the team to beat in the traditionally well-balanced conference.

1. SOUTHERN JAGUARS

OVERVIEW: Running back Melvin Williams is the go-to guy in the Jaguars' offensive attack, which undergoes somewhat of a change this year. With the departure of All-SWAC quarterback Eric Randall, Southern (11-1 overall, 6-1 SWAC) will put more emphasis on the run. Enter Williams, who led the SWAC with 1,086 rushing yards. Tackle Daniel Morris, a 6-foot-5, 310-pound senior, is a good lineman to follow. Memo to opposing offenses: Don't try to pass on the Jags, whose secondary coverage features returning starters John Williams and Ricky Arvy.

2. JACKSON STATE TIGERS

OVERVIEW: The school that forwarded Walter Payton to the NFL is destined to divert from a ground-crunching assault this season. Quarterback Graylin Pratt is the most efficient passer returning to the SWAC. His 2,372 yards a year ago were a completion away from being the highest aerial total in the league. Wideouts Jerome Young (37 catches, 462 yards) and Marek Walker (41, 574) were among the conference's top 10 receivers in 1995. A blitz-ready defense looms stingy against the rush for Jackson (9-3, 7-0), where its 111.3 yards-per-game yield of a year ago was tops in the league.

3. ALABAMA STATE HORNETS

OVERVIEW: With the graduation of All-SWAC wide receiver Reggie Barlow—his 16.4 yards per catch was best in the conference—look for the Hornets (8-3, 5-2) to assemble their ground forces. The backfield star could be junior Roderick Studaway, who burst upon the SWAC scene last year and immediately raised eyebrows with 401 yards, sixth-best in the league. Barlow's exit could prompt more passes in the direction of junior Jason Lucas, who averaged 12 yards per reception.

I-AA

SWAC

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

MELVIN WILLIAMS, SOUTHERN

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

FRED HARPER, ALCORN STATE

The defense could be the ticket to success. Every starter returns, including one of the conference's best safeties in Alphonse Pogue.

4. GRAMBLING TIGERS

OVERVIEW: The "400 Mania" is over as legendary head coach Eddie Robinson returns to being just an ordinary guy. Yeah, right. His mere presence provides an extra incentive for opponents to knock off Grambling and boost their own press clippings.

Speaking of which, the year after Victory No. 400 (Robinson's at 406 and counting) could be a long one if the Tigers (5-6, 4-3) don't find a capable successor to quarterback Kendrick Nord. The role may land on the shoulder pads of incoming freshman Fred Cagins, a blue-chip recruit out of Mississippi. The traditional Wing-T attack leans heavily on the running talents of seniors Broderick Fobbs and Keith Dean. Leading tackler Valmond Brown was shot and killed in May, so strong safety Corey Lewis will be called on to be the leader of the defense. Brown had 87 tackles and five sacks in 1995.

5. ALCORN STATE BRAVES

OVERVIEW: Here we go again. Another quarterback change. Last year, Jerry Fletcher had to succeed some guy named McNair. Now, Fletcher's gone. The leader in the wide-open race appears to be Andre Credit, a senior who worked behind SWAC pass-yardage leader Fletcher last year. Whoever is behind center will throw to wideout Kobie Jenkins, who led the league in receiving last year with 875 yards and four touchdowns. Another offensive weapon is return man Gorie White, who needs 673 return yards to break the all-time Division I-AA record held by Tennessee State's Herman Hunter (2,258 yards).

The defense is led by linebacker Fred Harper, a real-life rags to riches story. He started the year on the practice squad and ended it as the team's leading tackler (110). Returning free safety Richard White had six pickoffs in 1995 for Alcorn (4-7, 3-4).

6. MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ST. DELTA DEVILS

OVERVIEW: Graduation dented much of the Delta Devils' roster from last year, so new faces could be in abundance at several critical positions. One slot that will be manned by a familiar face is quarterback, where Keith Poindexter was the fifth-rated passer in the SWAC last year and is the catalyst of an attack that emphasizes a blend of pro-set, option and I-formation styles. Valley's defense was one of the most generous in the league in 1995, but all-league line candidate Marcus Wade (6-4, 220) is back for the Devils (2-9, 2-5).

7. TEXAS SOUTHERN TIGERS

OVERVIEW: With Archie "The Gunslinger" Cooley in tow as the offensive coordinator, it can only mean one thing for the Tigers' offense: Pass, pass, pass. He joined the team's staff last year and

immediately had the statisticians going bonkers with his high-octane aerial assault. Look for more of the same from the Tigers (2-8, 1-6), especially with 1994 starting quarterback Cedric Douglas and last year's starting quarterback, Byron Henderson (his 1,922 yards ranked third in the league), both back. Wideout Kiley Brown has great hands and racehorse speed that produced 32 catches in only eight games last year. Three senior leaders return on defense: Defensive end Nick Lopez, linebacker Chris Herpin at linebacker and cornerback Robert Hawkins.

8. PRAIRIE VIEW A&M PANTHERS

OVERVIEW: Death, taxes and . . . and the Prairie View loss. It's 57 straight setbacks and counting. The string could possibly end at 59, when the Panthers (0-11, 0-7) play NAIA school Hardin-Simmons on Sept. 14. The good news is that junior quarterback Reginald Prudhomme, one of the SWAC's top eight passers (963 yards), is back, and so is favorite receiver Torrance Brooks (11.0 rpg).

On the downside, the Panthers had the league's top two tacklers in 1995, but both are gone. That means a lot of new faces will be lining up for what could be another long, long season.

O.K. Davis is the Executive Sports Editor of the Ruston (La.) Daily Leader.

ALL-SWAC TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	GRAYLIN PRATT	JACKSON STATE	6-0/190	Jr.
RB	MELVIN WILLIAMS	SOUTHERN	5-10/195	Jr.
RB	CARLOS KNIGHT	JACKSON STATE	5-11/221	Sr.
WR	KOBIE JENKINS	ALCORN STATE	6-4/210	Sr.
WR	KILEY BROWN	TEXAS SOUTHERN	6-1/205	Sr.
OL	K. ROBINSON	ALCORN STATE	6-3/285	Sr.
OL	RAYFIELD ADAMS	JACKSON STATE	6-3/330	Sr.
OL	JAMES HENDERSON	ALABAMA STATE	6-3/275	Sr.
OL	DANIEL MORRIS	SOUTHERN	6-5/310	Sr.
OL	JAMES BROOKS	GRAMBLING STATE	6-8/300	Sr.
OL	GERRY MYERS	GRAMBLING STATE	6-6/310	Jr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	CARLOS LOCKHART	JACKSON STATE	6-2/245	Sr.
DL	LARRY LUNDY	GRAMBLING STATE	6-3/252	Sr.
DL	DAROLD JONES	JACKSON STATE	6-3/260	Sr.
DL	MARCUS WADE	MISS. VALLEY ST.	6-4/220	Sr.
LB	FRED HARPER	ALCORN STATE	6-2/210	Sr.
LB	CHRIS HERPIN	TEXAS SOUTHERN	6-1/215	Sr.
LB	RICHARD ALVARADO	JACKSON STATE	6-5/251	Sr.
DB	SEAN WOODSON	JACKSON STATE	6-2/210	Sr.
DB	JOHN WILLIAMS	SOUTHERN	5-10/185	Sr.
DB	ALPHONSE POGUE	ALABAMA STATE	5-11/190	Sr.
DB	COREY LEWIS	GRAMBLING STATE	6-1/190	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	CARLOS LEACH	SOUTHERN	5-10/180	Sr.
P	LIONEL NICHOLAS	SOUTHERN	6-2/206	Jr.
RS	GORIE WHITE	ALCORN STATE	5-9/180	Sr.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

LEO HAMLETT, DELAWARE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

DARREN SHARPER, WILLIAM & MARY

By TOM TOMASHEK

Since Delaware joined the conference in 1986, the Blue Hens have been Yankee dandies, winning or sharing five titles and receiving six postseason invitations. Last season, they celebrated their 10th anniversary of league play by sweeping their eight conference games by an average of more than 20 points per game.

Before the 1995 season, coach Tubby Raymond said his Blue Hens might be a year away from the top of their game and he offered no recent after Delaware went undefeated in the conference last year.

"We're going to be a better football team this season," said Raymond, whose Blue Hens' only regular-season loss came to Division I-A Navy. "I don't know if we're going to go any further, but we're going to be better."

If the Blue Hens are to be denied a sixth conference title, the challenge will come from among five teams—Richmond and William & Mary in the Middle-Atlantic and New England Divisional teams Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

But then who knows what really to expect in a league in which of 53 games, 27 were decided by a touchdown or less and 38 by no more than 14 points.

ALL-YANKEE TEAMS

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	LEO HAMLETT	DELAWARE	6-1/200	Sr.
RB	TORY TAYLOR	UCONN	5-10/173	Soph.
RB	FRANK ALESSIO	UMASS	5-7/185	Sr.
WR	COURTNEY BATTS	DELAWARE	6-0/175	Jr.
WR	CY BUTLER	RHODE ISLAND	5-7/165	Sr.
TE	ED PERRY	JAMES MADISON	6-5/240	Sr.
OL	MATT ALEGI	UMASS	6-2/292	Jr.
OL	DAN MARKOWSKI	UMASS	6-5/300	Sr.
OL	CHRIS KUMPOP	DELAWARE	6-4/290	Sr.
OL	PAT DOWNEY	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6-2/265	Jr.
OL	TA'VARR CLOSS	CONNECTICUT	6-5/319	Jr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	ART BLANCHARD	RICHMOND	6-1/245	Sr.
DL	MATT CRISPINO	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6-1/300	Soph.
DL	MARK HONDURU	DELAWARE	6-0/250	Sr.
DL	WILL SANTI	RHODE ISLAND	6-0/275	Sr.
LB	RALPH D'ANGELO	DELAWARE	6-1/226	Jr.
LB	JUSTIN RIEMER	MASSACHUSETTS	6-0/199	Sr.
LB	STEFON MOODY	WILLIAM & MARY	6-2/230	Sr.
DB	CURTIS DUNAWAY	VILLANOVA	5-11/190	Sr.
DB	KENNY BAILEY	DELAWARE	5-11/205	Sr.
DB	DARREN SHARPER	WILLIAM & MARY	6-3/215	Sr.
DB	WINSTON OCTOBER	RICHMOND	5-8/160	Soph.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	JOHN COURSEY	JAMES MADISON	6-0/200	Sr.
P	JOHN CURRY	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6-0/195	Jr.
RS	CY BUTLER	RHODE ISLAND	5-7/165	Sr.

MIDDLE-ATLANTIC DIVISION

1. DELAWARE BLUE HENS

OVERVIEW: Delaware (10-1 overall, 8-0 Yankee) has averaged more than 400 yards per game in each of the last five seasons, with last year's average (449 ypg.) ranking fourth nationally.

The Blue Hens were sixth in the Yankee Conference in total defense, giving up 323.8 yards per game, but they were first in scoring defense with a 15.4 average and much of the yardage came after Delaware had put games out of reach.

Leading the charge for the Blue Hens will be quarterback Leo Hamlett, last year's Offensive Player of the Year in the Yankee.

"He has the chance of being the best quarterback we've ever had," Raymond said of Hamlett, whose Blue Hen predecessors include NFL quarterbacks Rich Gannon, Scott Brunner and Jeff Komlo.

Gone from Delaware's aggressive 4-3 defense is second-team All-YC linebacker Larry McSeed, but stepping in should be Brian Smith, a former James Madison stalwart who sat out last season after transferring.

2. RICHMOND SPIDERS

OVERVIEW: Jim Reid's enthusiasm is contagious and productive. The dynamic coach did wonders at UMass before his stormy departure five years ago and he gave Richmond a jump start in his first season. The Spiders went 5-3 in the YC and 7-3-1 overall, their second winning season in eight years.

Richmond lost All-Yankee linebacker Bryan Leibrand but Reid—Boston College's defensive coordinator in 1994—has virtually the entire two-deep returning from the YC's No. 2 defense. Top returnees include tackle Art Blanchard, cornerback Winston October and linebacker Cary Goodwin, whose 112 tackles tied for ninth in the league.

Reid, the Middle-Atlantic Division's 1995 Co-Coach of the Year, didn't have the instant success offensively, with the Spiders finishing last in total offense (282.9) and scoring offense (17.0). But a seasoned offense, guided by veteran quarterback Joe Elrod and powered by a healthy backfield of Mino Rodriguez (911 yards) and Jasper Pendergrass (332 yards) should pose a more wide-open attack in 1996.

3. WILLIAM & MARY TRIBE

OVERVIEW: Coach Jimmie Laycock faces the unenviable task of replacing 12 starters, including the school's all-time leading rusher—Derek Fitzgerald (3,744 yards).

But don't feel too badly for Laycock, who since 1980 has developed one of I-AA's most consistent programs, one that has averaged eight wins per season in the 1990s. W&M (7-4, 5-3) has been

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

MIDDLE-ATLANTIC DIVISION

1. DELAWARE
2. RICHMOND
3. WILLIAM & MARY
4. VILLANOVA
5. JAMES MADISON
6. NORTHEASTERN

NEW ENGLAND DIVISION

1. CONNECTICUT
2. NEW HAMPSHIRE
3. RHODE ISLAND
4. UMass
5. BOSTON UNIVERSITY
6. MAINE

ranked among the nation's Top 25 for 50 consecutive weeks and came within a late-season, three-point loss to Delaware of a postseason bid.

For starters, Laycock has a strong core of defenders to begin his 17th season at W&M, with three of the six returning starters having been named to one of the three All-Yankee teams: free safety Darren Sharper (7 INTs) and linebackers Stefon Moody and Jude Waddy. The Tribe led the league with 21 interceptions and 36 takeaways overall in 1995.

Offensively, W&M returns three of its starting front five, including guard Josh Beyer. Back also is 6-foot-2, 215-pound wide receiver Josh Whipple, who caught 18 passes for an average of 25.7 yards per reception.

4. VILLANOVA WILDCATS

OVERVIEW: Coach Andy Talley's Wildcats (2-6, 3-8) completed last season with a 28-0 victory over a good Richmond team. The game marked the end of Villanova's third consecutive losing season, but Talley likes to look at the shutout as the start of something big.

"This season will be an important one for Villanova's program," Talley said.

Villanova's situation is anything but grim. Talley has 16 starters back from a team that lost six games by six points or less. A 21-point loss to Delaware early was the Wildcats' most decisive setback in a I-AA schedule ranked the 11th most difficult in the nation.

Although tailback Anthony Cowsette has 1,398 career rushing yards and Todd Golemi led the team in rushing as a freshman with 624, Talley plans to step up the passing game in an offense revamped by new offensive coordinator Dave Clawson, moving over from Lehigh's pass-oriented program. Whoever takes charge of Nova's multiple offense will have last year's top four receivers back: Josh Dolbin (34 recs., 618 yards), Brian Finneran (32-471), Golemi (23-184) and Cowsette (21-173).

The defense, hampered by injuries throughout 1995, returns All-Yankee safety Curtis Dunaway, the league's No. 2 tackler (133), and defensive end Chris Machovina, the team's sack leader (10).

5. JAMES MADISON DUKES

OVERVIEW: Alex Wood inherited an ideal situation last year when he replaced Rip Scherer, and the former Wake Forest offensive coordinator made

the best of it. A veteran JMU team finished the regular season 8-3 and was barely edged by Appalachian State in a first-round NCAA playoff game.

But Wood faces a different task this season, that being to reshape a team that lost 12 starters, foremost being quarterback Mike Cawley and four Yankee Conference all-star defenders.

Wood quickly endorsed senior Willie Gonzalez as the heir apparent. Gonzalez will have two of last year's top three Duke receivers back including wide receiver Jay Jones, the league's No. 3 receiver with 54 catches for 710 yards and 7 TDs.

JMU finished last in total defense, giving up 410.3 yards per game, a league-worst 239.5 rushing. The Dukes lost seven starters from that group, meaning Wood will be asking a lot from the four returning starters.

6. NORTHEASTERN HUSKIES

OVERVIEW: Northeastern (2-6, 4-7) has ample experience on board to be competitive, with 15 returning starters, including 10 on offense. What the Huskies, who led the league with a plus-12 turnover ratio, need is a little luck. They have lost 25 games in the last three seasons, 11 by a touchdown or less and another two by two points or less.

Coach Barry Gallup's offense should be significantly improved, led by quarterback Jim Murphy, tailback Brian Vaughn (742 yards) and fullback Jeff Reale (306 yards). All work behind a veteran line averaging 6-3, 287 pounds. Murphy (6-3, 200) is a capable passer whose statistics have improved each season. He completed 49.5 percent of 305 passes last season and was intercepted just four times. If the conversion of David Smith from tailback to wide receiver works and a couple other young wideouts emerge, the Huskies could be a major offensive threat.

Five of Northeastern's defensive front seven return, led by linebacker Matt Quinn (59 tackles) and end Lloyd Nugent (51 tackles, 4 sacks), but junior strong safety Leroy Robinson (67 tackles, 2 INTs) is the only returning defensive back.

Youth, however, may be ready to serve after a season in which 16 freshmen, redshirt freshmen and sophomores provided backup.

NEW ENGLAND DIVISION

1. CONNECTICUT HUSKIES

OVERVIEW: Pop quiz: Who among the remaining Yankee Conference's charter members has never reached the I-AA playoffs? If you said UConn, you are correct. But the Connecticut administration apparently is confident coach Skip Holtz will negate that ignominious distinction based on its off-season extension of his contract through 1999. UConn went 8-3 overall and 5-3 in the league last season, losing three of its last five games by a combined 12 points, and Holtz has 14 starters back, including seven on offense.

It was a balanced UConn unit that finished second to Delaware in total offense, led by quarterback Shane Stafford and powered by tailback Tory Taylor. Stafford was the league's second-most efficient passer, and Taylor finished second in rushing with 1,262 yards.

Defensively, Connecticut had a so-so season statistically, yielding 304.4 yards per game and 18.2 points, and Holtz lost seven starters from that group. To help, Holtz added three JUCO defenders in the off-season, including Chris Dipprie, a second-team All-America linebacker from Lackawanna (Pa.) JC.

"Chris will step in and make an immediate

impact with toughness, size, strength and athletic ability," Holtz said of the 6-1, 250-pounder.

The 1996 schedule also could help in UConn's Yankee bid. The Huskies' three crossover games in the Middle-Atlantic include neither Delaware nor Richmond.

2. NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDCATS

OVERVIEW: At a glance, New Hampshire (6-5, 4-4) took a major fall following a 1994 season in which the Wildcats went 8-0 and 10-1 overall. But the tumble wasn't as great as it might seem. UNH opened 0-3 and endured four of its five losses by a combined 13 points. Underscoring the skid was a drop in turnover ratio from plus-16 to last year's minus-5.

Coach Bill Bowes returns six starters from a multiple-50 defense that ranked No. 1 in total defense (255.7 yards) and No. 2 in scoring (15.5). Nine starters are back from a multiple-I offense that finished fifth with a 349.2-yard-per-game average.

Heading up the defense is sophomore tackle Matt Crispino, a 6-1, 300-pound All-America prospect at tackle, and a strong linebacker corps led by Peter Christopher (80 tackles) and Romande Carter (73).

Senior quarterback Chris Bresnahan suffered growing pains early in his first season as a starter but finished the season with a 54.5-percent completion rate and 1,836 yards.

However, it is Jerry Azumah, a 5-10, 185-pound tailback, who figures to be the focal point of UNH's attack after a freshman season in which he gained 1,105 yards in eight games.

3. RHODE ISLAND RAMS

OVERVIEW: Floyd Keith was the Yankee Conference's Co-Coach of the Year. In fact, some might go as far as identifying the former Indiana assistant as the league's resident magician.

Keith guided a program that endured an average of eight losses per season over nine-year span, to the New England Division title outright and came within six points of claiming the Yankee Conference's automatic berth in the NCAA playoffs.

Rhode Island (7-4, 6-2) pushed Delaware to the wire before losing, 24-19. If the Rams had beaten the Blue Hens, each would have been 7-1 and Rhode Island would have won the title through the tie-breaker system in which head-to-head competition is the first priority.

"We need to be mature enough to take last year's success and move forward," Keith said.

Undoubtedly, Keith has the capacity for improvement with 18 returning starters, nine of them on offense including QB Chris Hixson and his primary receiver Cy Butler. Hixson completed 57.6 percent of 330 passes for 2,250 yards and 15 TDs, with Butler catching 60 for 700 yards.

Though the Rams emphasize the pass, Keith hopes to get more out of the running game. Sophomore tailback Shyron Sanford averaged 4.5 yards per carry in '95, but Rhode Island finished last in rushing with a 76.9-yard average, which must be improved.

The foundation of Rhode Island's defense is the linebacker corps, bolstered by juniors Jared Elwell (113 tackles) and Lajhon James. Strong safety Chris Orlando (106 tackles, five INTs) is one of three returning defensive backs. Gone is All-America defensive end Lou D'Agostino, but Anthony Konasavage, a highly regarded transfer from Lackawanna JC, is expected to pick up some of the slack.

4. MASSACHUSETTS MINUTEMEN

OVERVIEW: Rene Ingoglia is gone, and the running back who rushed for a Yankee Conference record 4,624 yards will be missed.

Not that the Minutemen (3-5, 6-5) should stop running at and over the top of opponents considering senior tailback Frank Alessio (1,276 yards) is back. Matt Jordan (564 yards, 7.4 per carry) gives UMass a dazzling one-two punch at tailback.

UMass may use a significant portion of Ingoglia's 262 carries to bolster a passing game that last year produced only 43.9 yards per game. Anthony Catterton, who inherited the job midway through last season when Vito Campanile was injured, threw 72 of UMass' league-low 136 passes, completing 31.9 percent for 235 yards and one TD.

Seven defensive starters return including the entire linebacker corps led by Justin Riemer, a first-team All-Yankee Conference pick who led the league with 150 tackles. The major concern is the secondary, where All-America corner Breon Parker must be replaced.

5. BOSTON UNIVERSITY TERRIERS

OVERVIEW: Coach Don Allen is gone, off to Holy Cross and a reclamation project not unlike the one he faced at Boston University five seasons ago. BU's future now rests squarely on the shoulders of Tom Masella, Allen's former assistant who spent last season at Fairfield College.

The Terriers (3-8, 1-7) did a backslide in 1995, after going 21-2 over the previous two seasons, but Masella isn't looking at the job as an ominous task.

"It is great to be back with the Boston University football family," Masella said. "Our goal remains the same, and that is to challenge for the Yankee Conference championship . . . and return to our success of two years ago as soon as possible."

Indeed, Masella inherited a promising situation. From last year's two-deep, 37 players are eligible to return, a group that includes quarterback Kevin Foley, younger brother of Glenn, the former Boston College star. Foley threw a league-high 476 passes last season, completing 60.5 percent for 3,192 yards and 18 touchdowns.

The Terriers gave up more than their fair share defensively last season, yielding 380.8 yards and a league-high 27.6 points per game. Allen, missing eight starters, began the season with 17 sophomores and freshman on his two-deep.

6. MAINE BLACK BEARS

OVERVIEW: Jack Cosgrove's fourth season marks the longest stretch without a coaching change in Orono since the late Ron Rogerson spent the 1981-'84 seasons at Maine. Though Cosgrove has provided Maine a modicum of stability, he hasn't established a winning touch, with last season's Black Bears finishing 3-8 for the third consecutive year.

This season, Cosgrove has six returning starters on each side from a team that finished ninth in total offense (328.0) and 11th in total defense (388.5) and scoring defense (27.4). The Bears rely heavily on the run, so the loss of three offensive linemen, including All-America guard Steve Stinson, is significant.

But Cosgrove prefers to think about what he has back from a team that lost four games by four points or less. Heading the list are running back Andre Pam, the league's leading rusher (1,250 yards), backup Bob Jameson (829) and sophomore linebacker Derek Carter (128 tackles).

Tom Tomashek covers Delaware football for the Wilmington (Del.) News Journal.

INDEPENDENTS

I-AA

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

JOEY STOCKTON, WESTERN KENTUCKY

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

EUGENE MCALEER, HOFSTRA

By BILL HOWARD

Hofstra fans can already feel playoff fever, and just maybe a deep run in the postseason is included.

The Flying Dutchman lost to national finalist Marshall last season by just two points in the regular-season finale and reached the I-AA playoffs with a squad that had just 15 scholarship players. And those numbers will steadily increase over the next three years. Add in the hype surrounding their improved stadium, renovated to seat 15,000, and Hofstra fans are beginning to wonder if the program really can make a serious title run come December.

But beware of the Penguins.

Unfortunately, no team has been able to shake Youngstown State, except for last year. Normally a perennial playoff contender, the Penguins must come back from one of the weakest seasons (3-8) in coach Jim Tressel's storied 10-year reign. Anyone who follows I-AA football knows Tressel's team won't stay down for long.

"I'm sure you're going to find the urgency level up this spring," Tressel said. "Let's be honest, nobody had a wonderful winter."

Which school has the edge when the playoff race heats up likely will be decided Nov. 16, when the two clubs meet at Hofstra.

ALL-INDEPENDENTS TEAM

OFFENSE				
POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	SEAN LAIRD	St. Mary's (Calif.)	6-1/172	Jr.
RB	L. WORTHINGTON	LIBERTY	6-1/200	Sr.
RB	RAY NEALY	ARK.-PINE BLUFF	6-1/205	Sr.
WR	JOEY STOCKTON	WESTERN KENTUCKY	5-9/171	Jr.
WR	KAMIL LOUD	CAL POLY SLO	6-1/175	Jr.
TE	JAKE SHALLFIELD	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	6-3/230	Sr.
OL	JOE SMITH	ARK.-PINE BLUFF	6-7/334	Jr.
OL	JOHN COVEN	DAVIDSON	6-2/234	Sr.
OL	DEMINGO GREEN	HOFSTRA	6-4/300	Jr.
OL	JASON HASS	JACKSONVILLE STATE	6-4/297	Jr.
OL	DAN WILLIAMS	WOFFORD	6-2/320	Jr.

DEFENSE				
POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	JEFF GALEYAN	SOUTHERN UTAH	6-1/250	Sr.
DL	JIM SHANON	HOFSTRA	6-2/260	Sr.
DL	DAVID MAHAFFEY	JACKSONVILLE STATE	6-1/270	Sr.
DL	JOHN BARDACK	TOWSON STATE	6-1/222	Sr.
LB	EUGENE MCALEER	HOFSTRA	6-0/230	Sr.
LB	CRAIG GUEST	BUFFALO	6-3/230	Sr.
LB	CHRIS GARZA	SOUTHERN UTAH	6-1/240	Sr.
DB	PAUL HUMPHRIES	WOFFORD	5-10/174	Sr.
DB	ERIC MIMS	JACKSONVILLE STATE	5-9/180	Jr.
DB	DAVE LOMBARDI	CAL POLY SLO	5-10/160	Jr.
DB	TOM PAOLUCCI	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	5-10/185	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS				
POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	DAVE ETTINGER	HOFSTRA	6-0/215	Jr.
P	TOM ANTONIOGIANNI	St. Mary's (Calif.)	6-1/184	Sr.
RS	ANDREW MCFADDEN	LIBERTY	5-9/197	Sr.

1. HOFSTRA (N.Y.) FLYING DUTCHMEN

OVERVIEW: One year after making the I-AA playoffs for the first time in school history, the Flying Dutchmen (10-2 overall) return 15 starters, including seven from a defense that ranked in the top 10 in four different categories.

The defense's strongest area is at linebacker, where it boasts the return of All-America linebacker Eugene McAleer (6-foot, 230 pounds), who led Hofstra with 152 tackles last season. Returning starters Pat Clark and Jon Evjen combined for 193 tackles and will also vie for postseason honors. The line, which led the seventh-best rushing defense in the nation, is anchored by senior tackle Jim Shannon (6-2, 260), who had 83 tackles and 3.5 sacks.

The running game is young and deep, with sophomores Paul Que (892 yards, 9 TDs) and Jim Jones (792 yards, 4 TDs) joining forces with freshman Vaughn Sanders, the 1995 Long Island High School Player of the Year. Coach Joe Gardi tried to fill in holes at quarterback and offensive line with transfers. Sophomore passer Giovanni Carmazzi joined Hofstra after the University of the Pacific program folded in the off-season. Transfers Paul Segro (6-2, 300, Temple), Tim Crimmons (6-4, 295, Fresno City Junior College) and Doug Cleary (6-3, 298, Lackawanna (Pa.) JC) should have an immediate impact up front, along with All-America candidate DeMingo Green, in Gardi's run-and-shoot offense.

Special teams will also be strong with first-team All-America kicker Dave Ettinger back for his junior season. Ettinger nailed a I-AA-best 22 field goals.

2. YOUNGSTOWN STATE (OHIO) PENGUINS

OVERVIEW: Tressel has his work cut out for him, with just three starters returning on offense and no proven quarterback. Junior Demond Tidwell looks like the successor to three-year starter Mark Brungard, but saw extremely limited action last season—he completed just 7 of 10 passes for 149 yards, one TD and no interceptions. Fortunately for Tidwell, he has the team's top receiver, William Walker (42 recs., 15.5 yards per rec.) coming back.

Also returning is tailback Jake Andreadis, who led the team both in rushing yards (593) and touchdowns (six) as a freshman. Like many other schools looking to boost their offense, Tressel moved a defensive back, Andre Cook, to the backfield during spring practice. Part of the growing pains from last season were felt along the offensive line, but Penguins fans should see an improvement with tackles Matt Hogg (6-foot-5, 270 pounds) and Jim Jones (6-4, 260) returning.

Always a Tressel strong point, the defense is in much better shape with six returning starters. All-America linebacker and leading tackler Leon Jones graduated, but the second-best tackler, junior defensive back Tom Paolucci, returns. Special teams should be a threat with Paolucci (24.0-yard kickoff-return average on 27 returns), Andreadis,

Walker and Cook battling for return duties.

3. LIBERTY (VA.) FLAMES

OVERVIEW: If any team gives Hofstra and Youngstown State a run for a playoff berth, it's Liberty, which finished 8-3 last season. One of the most anticipated games on the schedule comes Oct. 12, when Liberty hosts Hofstra. The Flames lost last year's contest, 36-10.

Although they lost starting quarterback Antwan Chiles to graduation, the Flames should still scorch opposing defenses with the return of senior back Lawrence Worthington. Despite failing to crack 1,000 rushing yards last year (he collected 974), Worthington finished 12th in the nation in scoring with 16 touchdowns. He needs just 420 rushing yards and four touchdowns to become Liberty's all-time leader in those categories. Andrew McFadden is an Eric Metcalf-type back who also has become one of I-AA's premier kick returners.

While the defense lost five starters, the returning wealth is spread around enough to give Liberty stability. Senior linebacker Damon Bomar, a walk-on as a freshman along with Worthington, returns after an 89-tackle season, as does the Flames' leading sack leader, junior Rodney DeGrate (seven).

4. WESTERN KENTUCKY HILLTOPPERS

OVERVIEW: Before last season, more than 40 percent of the Hilltoppers' roster had never played a collegiate game. The result was a 2-8 record, but last season's pain should make Western Kentucky a significantly improved squad with 16 starters back.

Junior quarterback Willie Taggart is a threat both in the air (44-of-105 passing, 939 yards, 5 TDs) and on the ground (155 carries, 430 yards, 8 TDs). He'll have one of I-AA's premier receivers in junior Joey Stockton (33 recs., 26.2 yards per rec.). Stockton ranked fifth in the nation in all-purpose yards per game (199.0) and was the only wide receiver in the top 20. He has every chance to eclipse 1,000 yards both receiving and on kickoff returns (934 last year).

The Hilltoppers have the weapons to score often and may need to if the defense doesn't improve on last year's 419.8 yards and 34.1 points allowed per game. Fortunately, two of the team's three leading tacklers return, including senior linebacker Bryson Warner (86), as does the entire front line.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. HOFSTRA (N.Y.)
2. YOUNGSTOWN STATE (OHIO)
3. LIBERTY (VA.)
4. WESTERN KENTUCKY
5. St. MARY'S (CALIF.)
6. SAMFORD (ALA.)
7. JACKSONVILLE STATE (FLA.)
8. WOFFORD (S.C.)
9. TOWSON STATE (MD.)
10. BUFFALO (N.Y.)
11. CAL POLY SLO (CALIF.)
12. ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF
13. SOUTHERN UTAH
14. DAVIDSON (N.C.)
15. MOREHEAD STATE (KY.)
16. CHARLESTON SOUTHERN (S.C.)

5. ST. MARY'S (CALIF.) GAELS

OVERVIEW: With four offensive linemen and both wide receivers returning, junior Sean Laird could blossom into one of the most productive quarterbacks in I-AA this season. Laird completed 58 percent of his passes for 1,908 yards last year, and his touchdown-to-interception ratio was an outstanding 17-to-6. Starting receivers Blake Tuffli (539 yards, 2 TDs) and Ricky Ellis (561 yards, 5 TDs) should see their numbers rise, as should tight end Mickey Clements (345 yards, 4 TDs). The Gaels (8-2) get three starters back in the secondary, led by senior Rick Ellyson (90 tackles, 4 INTs). Kicking specialist Tom Antongiovanni is one of the more accurate place-kickers in I-AA and ranked 10th in the nation with a 40.6-yard punting average.

6. SAMFORD (ALA.) BULLDOGS

OVERVIEW: Coach Pete Hurt saw some nice strides made as the Bulldogs (7-4) climbed over the .500 mark last season. With most of the offensive weapons returning, the story should again have a happy ending this season. Fourth-year starting quarterback Bart Yancey completed 51 percent of his passes for 1,661 yards in 1995 and, with 5,005 career passing yards, should become the school's all-time leader some time this season. He'll have a number of outlets to use, including senior wide receiver Mike Porter (42 catches, 601 yards, 4 TDs) and sophomore running backs James Griffith (678 rushing yards) and Steve Hayden (564).

Hurt's main off-season focus was strengthening the offensive and defensive lines. Robert Dean (6-0, 275) is the lone returning starter on the O-line, but he's also the team's best blocker. On defense, both interior linemen are gone, but ends Joe Michael Robertson (6-4, 250) and Moses Stone (6-3, 245) can help remedy the situation.

"If our defense can carry us a while, while our offensive line develops and gets going, then we will have a chance to be a pretty good football team," Hurt said.

7. JACKSONVILLE STATE (FLA.) GAMECOCKS

OVERVIEW: The Gamecocks officially enter the Southland Football League in 1997, but, for all intents and purposes, they're already a member after scheduling three of the league's seven teams this year. Coach Bill Burgess has the program off to a hot start after a 7-4 record in the program's initial I-AA season last year.

Burgess again goes with a quarterback-by-committee approach, splitting time between sophomores Montressa Kirby and JeDarius Isaac, with redshirt freshman Brooks Barron possibly getting some reps. Junior Amel Jackson (675 yards, 8 TDs) leads all returning rushers, and he and junior Demetrick Thomas should see increased playing time in Burgess' newly installed I-formation.

All but two starters return on defense, including senior All-America candidate David Mahaffey (87 tackles, six sacks) at end and linebackers Eric Mims (104 tackles, 4 INTs), Eurosus Parker (43 tackles, 3 INTs) and Sidney Tyus (team-leading 122 tackles).

8. WOFFORD (S.C.) TERRIERS

OVERVIEW: The Terriers (4-7) will spend one more year as an independent before joining the Southern Conference in 1997. With 16 starters returning, including 10 on offense, Wofford should stir up plenty of talk in their conference-to-be this season.

All-America candidate Dan Williams (6-2, 320), who had 217 knockdown blocks as a sopho-

more last season, returns at center and anchors a standout offensive line that includes three sophomores who played last year. It should all make life easier for junior quarterback Brad Smothers, who threw just 25 passes, completing 12 for 149 yards and two touchdowns. With no quarterback establishing himself last year, coach Mike Ayers spread the wealth on the ground, with seven different players getting 50 or more carries. The leading rusher of the group, senior Lomar Foster (588 yards, 7 TDs), returns.

Although it struggled in third-and-long situations, the defense should be bolstered considerably by the return of cornerback Paul Humphries, who sat out last season to injury after an All-America season in 1994.

9. TOWSON STATE (MD.) TIGERS

OVERVIEW: The Tigers' first season as a non-scholarship program saw the team dip two wins to 6-4 last year. The return of 16 starters, however, may be enough to push them back into the I-AA playoff race. With the graduation of 1,000-yard rusher Larry Washington, the Tigers have to take advantage of their depth at receiver this fall. The team's top two receivers, seniors Shawn Ward and Amadi Eze, combined for 861 yards and nine touchdowns. Quarterback Kevin Smith threw for 1,285 yards and 11 touchdowns as a freshman last season.

The Tigers' sack leader, senior defensive end John Bardak (seven), returns as one of the anchors for a squad that had I-AA's seventh-best defense. Special teams will also be a threat with senior Maurice Sydnor, who is tied with former Tiger and current New England Patriot Dave Meggett for the most career kickoff returns for touchdowns (two).

10. BUFFALO (N.Y.) BULLS

OVERVIEW: Although coach Craig Cirbus went 3-8 in his first year last season, one of those wins came against Youngstown State, and his squad lost at Hofstra by just a field goal. The Bulls' record might actually have jumped above .500 had they not been outscored 105-37 in the second quarter (they outscored their opponents, 161-154, the other three). So hope reigns supreme in upstate New York for a team that had just eight starters on scholarship last year.

Junior halfback Anthony Swan ran for 968 yards last season and had 1,248 all-purpose yards. He has to shoulder most of the load despite most of the offensive line graduating. All-America candidate Craig Guest (161 tackles, 2 INTs) leads the defense from his linebacker spot, and special teams gets the spotlight with kicker/punter Gerald Carson, a potential All America, who connected on 17 of 22 field-goal attempts and had a 39.2 gross punting average.

11. CAL POLY SLO (CALIF.) MUSTANGS

OVERVIEW: When the short-lived American West conference folded in the off-season, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (5-6) joined Southern Utah in the independent ranks, while Cal State-Sacramento and Cal State-Northridge joined the Big Sky.

The Mustangs offense lost star quarterback Mike Fisher to graduation, leaving a huge void on the second-best total offense in I-AA last year. Among the players fighting to fill the vacancy is San Jose State transfer Alli Abrew. Whoever gets the job has two outstanding receivers in All-America candidate Kamil Loud and Jon Peck, who each had over 1,000 yards and combined for 17 touchdowns. Among the eight returning starters on defense (and 16 overall) is defensive back Dave Lombardi (5 INTs).

12. ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF GOLDEN LIONS

OVERVIEW: One of the top programs in NAIA football, the Golden Lions (6-4) jump to the I-AA ranks and should make some noise in their first season. The schedule includes games against all but two of the eight SWAC teams and no independents.

Of the 13 returnees, none may have more of an impact than 6-7, 334-pound junior lineman Joe Smith, who will block for 1,000-yard tailback Ray Nealy. Defensively, the front line suffered heavy losses, putting the pressure on an experienced line-backing corps led by sophomores Sam Simmons (6-6, 245) and LaDarren Skelton (6-3, 210).

13. SOUTHERN UTAH THUNDERBIRDS

OVERVIEW: The Thunderbirds (2-9) closed out a disappointing final season in the American West Conference, but get a chance to wipe the slate clean as an independent and with a new coach, Rich Ellerson. The Thunderbirds have 16 starters back, including All-America candidates Jeff Galyean and Chris Garza on a defense that should cut down on the 35.8 points and 433.5 yards per game it allowed. Galyean led the American West with 13.5 sacks last year, while Garza returns as the team's leading tackler (122).

The offense needs a complete reworking after the graduation of the starting quarterback, as well as the team's leading rusher and top two receivers. Fortunately, only one starting offensive lineman was lost, with All-American West center Tom Fell leading the returnees.

14. DAVIDSON (N.C.) WILDCATS

OVERVIEW: Don't let the Wildcats' 1-8-1 record fool you. Each of their losses came by seven or fewer points, which makes coach Tim Landis wonder if his club can finally break the .500 mark this fall. The defense that finished in the upper half of I-AA last fall with 307.8 yards per game has to fill in holes for the loss of three of the top five tacklers. Fortunately for Landis, almost the entire secondary returns intact.

Quarterbacks Tommy Dugan and Cliff Henry shared snaps, and either one of them, or both, must step up and remedy the Wildcats' woeful 135 passing yards per game from last season. Sophomore Lorenzo Moll (524 yards) returns after leading the Wildcats in rushing as a freshman.

15. MOREHEAD STATE (KY.) EAGLES

OVERVIEW: The Eagles (2-8, 1-7 Ohio Valley) moved out of the Ohio Valley Conference for football only on a plan to field a program with only need-based scholarships. Last year, running back Anthony Ravizee became MSU's first 1,000-yard rusher in 15 years, although both the line he runs behind and the quarterback handing the ball to him, Chris Barry, are question marks. The defense, however, returns nine starters, including lineman Mackenzie McKnight.

16. CHARLESTON SO. (S.C.) BUCCANEERS

OVERVIEW: Seventeen starters return for a Buccaneer (1-10) squad that avoided back-to-back winless seasons with a 34-22 win over Morehead State last year. The Bucs were out-gained by a whopping average of 238.3 yards per game, with a plethora of underclassmen thrown into the fire. The offense returns seven starters, although no running back broke the 200-yard mark, and the defense brings back nine players, including outside linebacker Quentin Lee (team-leading 99 tackles).

DIVISION II

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

LANCE FUNDERBURK, VALDOSTA STATE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

MARK CALLAHAN, NORTH DAKOTA

By MIKE GOENS

Texas A&M-Kingsville coach Ron Harms knows. So does every other coach in the NCAA Division II ranks. "Until someone steps up and takes it away, North Alabama is the team to beat in Division II," Harms said. "They have had an incredible run."

Some would argue that North Alabama's run has been more than incredible. The Lions have won an unprecedented three consecutive national championships. The run also includes 41 straight victories against Division II opponents, another unmatched feat. The last time North Alabama lost a game to a division foe was during the national semifinals in 1992.

There is hope for North Alabama's opposition this season, though. Fourteen starters, including eight who earned All-America status, have departed from the Lions.

1. NORTH ALABAMA LIONS

OVERVIEW: North Alabama (14-0) returns plenty of weapons, both offensively and defensively. On offense, the starting backfield tandem of fullback A.J. Lamar and tailback Jermaine Roberts returns, along with Michael Edwards, who coach Bobby Wallace calls the best D-II receiver in the country.

ALL-DIVISION II TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	LANCE FUNDERBURK	VALDOSTA STATE	6-5/218	Sr.
RB	CHRIS PULLIAMS	FERRIS STATE	5-11/225	Sr.
RB	FRED LANE	LANE	5-10/205	Sr.
WR	SEAN PENDER	VALDOSTA STATE	5-8/175	Sr.
WR	CARLOS FERRALLS	GLENVILLE STATE	6-4/180	Jr.
TE	BYRON SLACK	WEST GEORGIA	6-0/215	Sr.
OL	TONY RAMIREZ	NORTHERN COLORADO	6-6/315	Sr.
OL	DON STRUEBING	CENTRAL ARKANSAS	6-2/304	Sr.
OL	JEREMY O'DAY	EDINBORO	6-3/285	Sr.
OL	TODD PERKINS	TEXAS A&M-KINGSVILLE	6-4/290	Sr.
OL	BOB GOLTRA	PITTSBURG STATE	6-7/296	Sr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	REGINALD RUFFIN	NORTH ALABAMA	5-10/226	Jr.
DL	MARK CALLAHAN	NORTH DAKOTA	6-2/285	Sr.
DL	RICHARD JORDAN	MISSOURI SOUTHERN	6-2/268	Sr.
DL	RUSTY ARRINGTON	INDIANA (PA.)	6-2/232	Sr.
LB	JOVAN DEWITT	NORTHERN MICHIGAN	6-2/246	Sr.
LB	ROBERT THOMAS	HENDERSON STATE	6-2/255	Sr.
LB	SEAN FREDRICKS	NORTH DAKOTA STATE	6-3/240	Jr.
DB	TELLEY PRIESTER	VIRGINIA STATE	5-9/160	Jr.
DB	KEVIN MATHIS	EAST TEXAS STATE	5-9/170	Sr.
DB	GERALD SMITH	NORTH ALABAMA	5-7/160	Sr.
DB	KIM NIEBALA	CLARION	6-0/195	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
PK	DAVID DELL	EAST TEXAS STATE	5-10/150	Soph.
P	DIRK JOHNSON	NORTHERN COLORADO	6-1/200	Jr.
RS	CHARLES DAVIS	SAGINAW VALLEY	6-2/190	Sr.

Defensively, end Reginald Ruffin is a returning star, and the entire secondary, led by Gerald Smith, returns.

The question marks will be at quarterback, where Charles Hogan and Demetrea Shelton will likely share playing time, and the defensive front, where Tony Middlebrooks returns from surgery and three JUCO transfers with impressive credentials look to step forward.

"I don't think we will be as dominant as we were last year [average margin of victory was 27 points], but I do think we'll be very competitive," Wallace said. "The pressure is really off this year because the people in the community may not have the same high expectations."

2. TEXAS A&M-KINGSVILLE JAVELINAS

OVERVIEW: North Alabama's crown is not out of Harm's way. The Javelinas (11-2) have a chance to make an immediate statement with games at North Dakota State and home against North Alabama early in the season.

A&M-Kingsville, seeking its fifth straight Lone Star Conference title, lost several key performers (12 of the starting 22) but return 25 lettermen, including seven defensive starters. Linebacker Chris Hensley, the team's leading tackler for two straight seasons, is questionable following a spring knee injury. However, defensive back Tyrone Marshall is one of the best in the nation, and the front is big and talented. On offense, junior quarterback Oktay Basci is back, along with several speedy runners and lineman Todd Perkins.

3. NORTH DAKOTA FIGHTING SIOUX

OVERVIEW: North Dakota (9-2) won or shared the last three North Central Conference titles but were soundly defeated in the playoffs last year by fierce rival North Dakota State. With eight offensive and nine defensive starters back, however, North Dakota can challenge for the national title.

The Sioux again will feature a strong running game, led by Phillip Moore, and an offensive line anchored by Tim Prinsen. Quarterback Kevin Klancher is also back after throwing for 1,693 yards last year. Defense will also be a trademark with two-time All-America nose guard Mark Callahan back. Linebackers Tim Tibesar (third-team All America) and David Borowicz are also big-time performers.

4. NEW HAVEN (CONN.) CHARGERS

OVERVIEW: The best of the East will likely be New Haven (10-1-1). Seventeen starters are back from a team that was unbeaten during the regular season.

Quarterback Jesse Showerda is a key. He passed for 2,626 yards and 22 touchdowns last year while completing 60 percent of his passes. Aaron Gagnon and Tyrone Seabrooks are back to take over the leadership roles among the receivers. Four of the five

PRESEASON TOP 25

1. NORTH ALABAMA
2. TEXAS A&M-KINGSVILLE
3. NORTH DAKOTA
4. NEW HAVEN (CONN.)
5. PITTSBURG STATE (KAN.)
6. NORTH DAKOTA STATE
7. EDINBORO (PA.)
8. VALDOSTA STATE (GA.)
9. EAST TEXAS STATE
10. ALBANY STATE (GA.)
11. FERRIS STATE (MICH.)
12. VIRGINIA STATE
13. HILLSDALE (MICH.)
14. INDIANA (PA.)
15. UC DAVIS
16. SOUTH DAKOTA
17. CARSON-NEWMAN (TENN.)
18. CENTRAL ARKANSAS
19. NORTHERN MICHIGAN
20. MILLERSVILLE (PA.)
21. MISSOURI SOUTHERN
22. BLOOMSBURG (PA.)
23. SAGINAW VALLEY (MICH.)
24. CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
25. NORTHERN COLORADO

offensive linemen also return. The front seven on defense will be a strength, with lineman Rob Hubbell and linebackers Brian Oliver and Shane McNeeley. The secondary was wiped out by graduation.

5. PITTSBURG STATE (KAN.) GORILLAS

OVERVIEW: No team has won more games in the 1990s than Pittsburg State (69-8-2). The Gorillas played in the championship game last year and seven offensive and five defensive starters are back from that squad.

The key may be finding a consistent performer at quarterback. But the Gorillas (12-1-1) don't place a lot of pressure on the quarterback anyway, having run the ball 82 percent of the time last season. Tackle Bob Goltra is All-America caliber and Justin Johnson is the top runner. On defense, linemen Anthony Randle and Chad Webb are the ring-leaders.

6. NORTH DAKOTA STATE BISON

OVERVIEW: No team has more Division II titles (eight) than the Bison (10-3). And following a year where injuries forced several underclassmen into the spotlight and the club still reached the playoff quarterfinals, they may have more depth than any Division II team. Seven offensive and seven defensive players are listed as returning starters, but several others have starting experience.

The best example is at quarterback, where Rob Hyland is back from injury, but Kevin Feeney also returns after leading his team to wins in seven of its last eight games. Running backs Reggie Scott and Jake Morris have 1,000-yard potential. Linebacker Sean Fredricks (90 tackles, 10 for losses) and defensive back Jerome Cheatham lead the defense.

7. EDINBORO (PA.) FIGHTING SCOTS

OVERVIEW: Edinboro (9-2) will feature one of the top running games in Division II. Gerald Thompson rushed for 1,281 yards and 10 touchdowns last year as a freshman, while Tony Brinson chipped in with 649. Other big-time players on offense are guard Jeremy O'Day and quarterback Chris Hart, who passed for 1,803 yards last year.

If the defense stays strong, Edinboro will be playoff bound again. Linebacker Michael Sims and tackle Jeff Traversy are the leaders.

8. VALDOSTA STATE (GA.) BLAZERS

OVERVIEW: The Blazers were arguably Division II's second best team in 1994 but suffered through a 6-5 rebuilding season last year. However, 37 lettermen, including 15 starters, are back. The success will again revolve around the passing game, where Lance Funderburk, a Harlon Hill Trophy candidate, threw for 3,706 yards and 26 TDs last year. Eight other starters are back on offense, including receiver Sean Pender, who led the nation with 111 receptions last year. Linebacker Ryan Branch led the team in tackles last year but tore an ACL skiing in the off-season and will miss the season.

9. EAST TEXAS STATE LIONS

OVERVIEW: With five defensive starters back and four key returnees on an offense that has 14 players back with some starting experience, there could be enough depth at East Texas State (8-4) to unseat Texas A&M-Kingsville in the Lone Star Conference chase. Senior Cole Cayce has starting experience at quarterback, but the key performer may be running back Jermaine McDowell, a transfer from Wyoming. On defense, cornerback Kevin Mathis is superb.

10. ALBANY STATE (GA.) RAMS

OVERVIEW: The top gun in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference should again be Albany State. The Rams lost twice to North Alabama last season but were in excellent position to win both games at halftime. The coaching staff thinks there is enough experience back to reverse that fate. The running game is among the nation's best with Antonio Leroy (1,430 rushing yards in 1995) leading the way. Tackle Ed Christian makes it work up front and Vincent Huff had 12 touchdown receptions. Six starters return on defense, including end Andrea Slappey.

11. FERRIS STATE (MICH.) BULLDOGS

OVERVIEW: Ferris State has gone 39 straight regular-season games without a loss, and the Bulldogs should again be the pick of the bunch from the Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference. However, it's unlikely they can go 12-1 again unless a solid replacement is found at quarterback. Otherwise, running back Chris Pulliams (1,729 yards and 23 TDs) and receiver Levi Baker must carry the offensive load. Defensive standouts will be linebacker Jeff Fisher (130 tackles) and cornerback Terry Cooper.

12. VIRGINIA STATE TROJANS

OVERVIEW: The Trojans (8-2) have proved they're the best in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Now they want national recognition. Offensively, the unit may have already arrived, having averaged 38.2 points a game last year. Running back Bo Morgan (886 yards and 18 TDs) and

receiver Tony Lanier (56 receptions) are solid. The key will be finding a consistent quarterback and a solid defensive unit. Linebacker Antonio Inge had 15 tackles for losses last season, and Telley Priester has impressive credentials in the secondary.

13. HILLSDALE (MICH.) CHARGERS

OVERVIEW: Despite some key losses, Hillsdale returns enough experience to contend with Ferris State in the competitive MIFC. Nine offensive and seven defensive starters are back. Guard Brad Affholter is a blue-chip offensive lineman, while linebackers Scott Duncan (121 tackles) and Gavin Pike are standouts.

14. INDIANA (PA.) INDIANS

OVERVIEW: The Indians (8-3) are the only team to be ranked in the Top 20 each season since 1984, but to keep that streak alive many young players must step up. There are only three offensive and six defensive starters back. Defense must dominate and Rusty Arrington and Mike Marshall are capable of leading that effort. Tackle Darren Walton and tailback James Suber pace the offense.

15. UC DAVIS AGGIES

OVERVIEW: Offense has long been a trademark for UC Davis (6-3-1), and this season won't be an exception. Although only five starters return to the unit, the key ingredients are there—quarterback Mark Grieb (2,226 yards), running back Jermaine Rucker (916 yards in 10 games), flanker Ernest Perkins and offensive linemen T.J. Brown and Vince Dostal. The defense has seven starters back, which could put the Aggies in the playoffs.

16. SOUTH DAKOTA COYOTES

OVERVIEW: South Dakota may end up being the team to beat in the NCC. The Coyotes have 13 starters back, including eight on offense, from an 8-3 squad. The key will be filling the defensive holes. South Dakota led the run-oriented NCC in rushing defense last year. If Ryan Glock and company duplicate that effort this season, the Coyotes will be contenders, because quarterback Chris Miller and running back Jared Schwenn have proved they can compete.

17. CARSON-NEWMAN (TENN.) EAGLES

OVERVIEW: Carson-Newman (9-3) has given North Alabama more problems than any other team during the last three seasons, but the Eagles face the urgency of replacing 16 starters. Coach Ken Sparks put together one of the nation's best recruiting seasons, though. The Eagles' veer option offense will feature the return of quarterback Matt Penland, who produced nearly 1,800 yards of offense and 19 TDs (nine on the ground). Many of the holes on defense will be filled with junior college transfers.

18. CENTRAL ARKANSAS BEARS

OVERVIEW: Central Arkansas (7-4) has been unable to find a way to stop Gulf South Conference foe North Alabama. As a result, the Bears have made some noticeable changes. The biggest is in new offensive coordinator Charlie Wade, who will install a pro-style attack. Nine starters return to the unit, including center Don Struebing and tailback Andre King, the latter of whom had a strong spring after missing most of last season with a broken pelvic bone. Defensive end Chris Pope (9½ sacks) and safety Archie McCoy (5 INTs) are among seven defensive starters back.

19. NORTHERN MICHIGAN WILDCATS

OVERVIEW: The Wildcats shocked many with a 7-3 mark last season, and 16 returning starters should make them contenders for conference and national honors this year. Seniors Jovan Dewitt and Matt Hoard are sound leaders. Dewitt had 119 tackles last year from his linebacker slot, while Hoard passed for 2,159 yards last season.

20. MILLERSVILLE (PA.) MARAUDERS

OVERVIEW: Few teams managed to even slow down the Millersville offense last year, and quarterback Greg Moylan returns as the trigger man on a squad that averaged 460 yards and 35 points per game. Expect the Marauders (9-1-1) to be better defensively with Dale Reed (seven interceptions) and linebacker Chris Caserio (96 tackles) back.

21. MISSOURI SOUTHERN LIONS

OVERVIEW: Missouri Southern (6-4) will be there should Pitt State fade in the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association. Fourteen starters return, including seven on defense. End Richard Jordan is one of the division's best defenders. The key will be bringing consistency to the offense, and coach Jon Lantz will move some defensive players over to help.

22. BLOOMSBURG (PA.) HUSKIES

OVERVIEW: The Huskies (9-1-1) have shared the Pennsylvania League's East title the last two seasons but have been overlooked at playoff time. Defense will again carry the load with nine starters back on the unit, including linebacker Frank Babula and linemen Jason Grim and Josh Kline. On offense, quarterback Glen McNamee and tailback Irvin Sigler are exciting.

23. SAGINAW VALLEY (MICH.) CARDINALS

OVERVIEW: The Cardinals' veer attack has set 90 school and conference records over the last two years. Eleven players with starting experience are back on offense for Saginaw Valley (7-4), but the critical replacement will be at quarterback. D'Ar DeStrampe is the top returning runner and flanker Charles Davis is a Hill Trophy candidate. Eight players are back with starting experience on defense.

24. CENTRAL OKLAHOMA BRONCHOS

OVERVIEW: Central Oklahoma fans have been pointing toward this season for a long while. The Broncos were 8-3 last year and have seven offensive, seven defensive and both starting kickers back. Quarterback Stanley Pena returns after missing five games with a broken jaw, as does key lineman Aaron Roberson. The Broncos defense is solid again after leading Division II in turnover ratio last year with plus 33. Johnny Luter had 122 tackles.

25. NORTHERN COLORADO BEARS

OVERVIEW: Quarterback Tom Beck started all 11 games last year for the Bears (9-3) and threw for 2,239 yards and 18 touchdowns. Their passing game is the best in the North Central Conference with Andy Haase and Lejon Vivens expected to be leaders. Tackle Tony Ramirez is one of Division II's best. The unknown factor is the defense.

Mike Goens is a staff writer for the Florence (Ala.) Times Daily.

DIVISION III

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

BILL BORCHERT, MOUNT UNION

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

NICK REISER, ALLEGHENY

By **CHIP MUNDY**

How important is it for a preseason No. 1 football team to have its starting quarterback return from the previous season?

Well, if the talent surrounding the quarterback is more important than the player himself, then defending champion Wisconsin-La Crosse has to be considered the No. 1 team entering the season. The Eagles must replace 6-foot-6 quarterback Craig Kusick, but the list of top-notch returnees is impressive.

But if an experienced quarterback is the difference between being No. 1 and being a contender, then Mount Union (Ohio) has to be the favorite. The Purple Raiders have junior quarterback Bill Borchert, who threw 30 touchdown passes and just four interceptions a year ago for a team that reached the Division III semifinals.

La Crosse and Mount Union have been the dominant teams in Division III in the 1990s. Mount Union has a 66-6-1 record—the most victories of any Division III school in that span—and La Crosse checks in second at 64-7-1.

But winning more than 10 games a season doesn't necessarily guarantee a school the title. There have been nine different national champions in the last 10 years, with only La Crosse winning more than once ('92 & '95).

ALL-DIVISION III TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	BILL BORCHERT	MOUNT UNION	6-2/188	Jr.
RB	BRANDON STEINHEIM	WESLEY	5-10/198	Sr.
RB	MARK KACHARYNSKI	CENTRAL (IOWA)	6-0/210	Sr.
WR	KURT BARTH	EUREKA	5-11/190	Jr.
WR	MIKE GUNDERSORF	WILKES	6-3/182	Sr.
TE	JUSTIN HACKLEY	SAVIE REGINA	6-4/225	Sr.
OL	ANDY MORAN	LA VERNE	6-3/285	Sr.
OL	ERIK HALVORSON	UW-LA CROSSE	6-2/300	Sr.
OL	MICHAEL DOWNEY	LYCOMING	6-1/278	Sr.
OL	JESSE REDEPENNING	ST. JOHN'S	6-5/285	Sr.
OL	BRETT MOSES	THOMAS MORE	6-3/290	Sr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	NICK REISER	ALLEGHENY	6-2/225	Sr.
DL	WOODY FANGMEIR	UW-RIVER FALLS	6-2/241	Sr.
DL	JEFF BARGIEL	MONTCLAIR ST.	6-4/250	Sr.
DL	DEMETRIUS STEVENSON	WESLEY	6-0/278	Sr.
LB	CRAIG ANDERSON	OHIO WESLEYAN	6-0/205	Sr.
LB	SCOTT HOLLAND	WORCESTER ST.	6-2/274	Sr.
LB	TIM ARMOSKA	RANDOLPH-MASON	5-11/212	Sr.
DB	JIM WALLACE	RIPON	6-2/210	Sr.
DB	DAVID LEFERE	ALBION	6-0/170	Sr.
DB	CHRIS NALLEY	WASHINGTON (MO.)	5-11/154	Sr.
DB	LORENZO HOWARD	MARYVILLE	6-0/190	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
PK	JIMMY WATTS	WITTENBERG	6-2/200	Jr.
P	JEFF SHEA	CAL LUTHERAN	6-2/195	Jr.
RS	BRANDON STEINHEIM	WESLEY	5-10/198	Sr.

1. MOUNT UNION (OHIO) PURPLE RAIDERS

OVERVIEW: An opposing coach said it best: "If I had my choice of any [player] in the country, I would take Bill Borchert." In the first round of last year's playoffs, Borchert set playoff records for completions (37), yards (584) and total offense (595).

Borchert, the only quarterback in the nation to complete over 70 percent of his passes, will miss wide receiver Todd Zufra (40 recs., 7 TDs), who set a playoff record with 16 catches for 265 yards against Hanover.

Mount Union is far from an offense-only machine. The Purple Raiders were fifth in total defense a year ago and return seven starters, led by a fine quartet of linebackers in Jason Hall (111 tackles), Jim Eller (93), Brian Wervy (87, nine sacks) and Mark Black (63).

2. WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE EAGLES

OVERVIEW: Four players who were nominated for All-America honors return for the defending national champs, but the Eagles must find a replacement for Kusick.

Erik Halverson, a 300-pound guard, anchors an offensive line that helped the Eagles average 406 yards and 33 points per game in 1995.

On defense, Michael Ivey and Mike Maslowski return for their senior seasons. Ivey, a down lineman, is a two-time first-team all-conference selection with 96 career tackles. Maslowski, a linebacker, has led the team in tackles the last two seasons.

Dangerous return man John Barrett, who has averaged 26.1 yards on kickoff returns and 11.2 yards on punt returns over his career, is back.

3. ALLEGHENY (PA.) GATORS

OVERVIEW: Allegheny (9-1) is trying to get back to the title game for the first time since its 1990 championship season. Its strength should be in the defensive line, which boasts two standouts—Nick Reiser, a three-time first-team all-conference selection who had 96 tackles last year, and Bob Tatsch, who registered a school-record 11½ sacks in 1995.

Not only was the defense stingy (9.4 ppg.), the Gators were fifth in scoring offense a year ago and welcome back QB Kyle Adamson, who led his league in completions, yards and touchdowns. Ronnie Anderson also returns after leading the conference in receptions (53) and yards (771).

4. ALBION (MICH.) BRITONS

OVERVIEW: Many key players from the 1994 national championship team are still around, including senior quarterback Kyle Klein. The left-hander is not afraid to run with the ball but also throws it effectively, especially when he spots Chris Barnett, who hauled in 57 passes for 870 yards and seven scores last year.

PRESEASON TOP 25

1. MOUNT UNION (OHIO)
2. WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE
3. ALLEGHENY (PA.)
4. ALBION (MICH.)
5. ST. JOHN'S (MINN.)
6. WITTENBERG (OHIO)
7. LYCOMING (PA.)
8. WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON (PA.)
9. ITHACA (N.Y.)
10. BUFFALO STATE (N.Y.)
11. ROWAN (N.J.)
12. WHEATON (ILL.)
13. EMORY & HENRY (VA.)
14. RIPON (WIS.)
15. WASHINGTON (MO.)
16. CENTRAL (IOWA)
17. MARIETTA (OHIO)
18. WARTBURG (IOWA)
19. UNION (N.Y.)
20. WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS
21. WESLEY (DEL.)
22. AUGUSTANA (ILL.)
23. ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
24. LA VERNE (CALIF.)
25. THOMAS MORE (KY.)

Defensive back David Lefere, who came to Albion as a wide receiver, has 20 interceptions the past two seasons. Junior linebacker Neil Johnson also returns after leading the team in tackles the past two seasons.

5. ST. JOHN'S (MINN.) JOHNNIES

OVERVIEW: St. John's is among the dominant Division III teams of the decade. The Johnnies are 57-9-2 in the 1990s, although they haven't reached the title game since winning it all in 1976.

As usual, St. John's (8-1-1) has ample talent coming back. The defense is anchored by Ted Ruzanic (five INTs) and pass-rushing specialist Brian Deters (10 sacks). The loss of Gagliardi Trophy winner Chris Palmer (more than 4,000 career all-purpose yards) will be felt on offense, but Kurt Ramler is back for his third year as starting quarterback after finishing ninth in total offense last year. Yet, the key returnee may be tackle Jesse Redepinning, a 6-5, 285-pound force.

6. WITTENBERG (OHIO) TIGERS

OVERVIEW: The Tigers went unbeaten in the regular season last year but lost in the first round of the playoffs. The skill positions remain a strength with quarterback Mike Donnelly, who did not throw an interception in his last 174 passes of the season, and fullback Marcus Booker, an excellent blocker with more than 2,000 career rushing yards.

At 5-8, 145 pounds, Ken Pope does not look like a football player, but the sophomore defensive back returns after a superb freshman year in which he had interceptions in his first four games and finished tied for second nationally with eight. Pope is one of nine returning starters on defense.

7. LYCOMING (PA.) WARRIORS

OVERVIEW: Look for Lycoming (8-3) to lean on quarterback Keith Cadden, the Player of the Year in the Freedom League of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference. Cadden (2,191 yards, 20 TDs) should post huge numbers again, thanks to the return of the entire offensive line and his favorite target, senior Steve Verton (58 recs., 986 yards, 10 TDs).

8. WASH. & JEFFERSON (PA.) PRESIDENTS

OVERVIEW: The Presidents have found success in the 1990s with a 61-10 record but have no national championships to show for it. They will rely on quarterback Jason Baer, the team and conference MVP and a finalist for the Gagliardi Trophy in '95. Baer has thrown 50 TD passes the past two seasons. Senior Dan Primrose (70 tackles, three sacks) and D.J. Valente (68 tackles, six sacks) are the leaders on defense.

9. ITHACA (N.Y.) BOMBERS

OVERVIEW: This perennial Division III power is coming off an uncharacteristic down year (5-4), but there are a lot of signs pointing to a return to contender status. Senior quarterback Neal Weidman set 10 school passing records last year and should keep getting better. Split end Jeff Higgins (57 recs.) provides the Bombers with a deep threat.

10. BUFFALO STATE (N.Y.) BENGALS

OVERVIEW: The Bengals (9-2) have made the playoffs for four consecutive seasons and be back again behind the passing of senior quarterback Tracy Bacon (1,630 passing yards, 14 TDs, five INTs) and the running of junior Perez Dinkins (1,117 yards, 15 TDs). The team's top two tacklers, linebacker Dan Dixon (87 tackles) and Ron Amici (86), are also back in the fold.

11. ROWAN (N.J.) PROFESSORS

OVERVIEW: Two of the last three national championship games have featured Rowan as the losing team. The Professors have plenty of holes to fill from last year's runner-up squad, so their playoff hopes rest on the arm of quarterback Greg Lister, who returns after throwing for 1,649 yards and 20 touchdowns as a sophomore. Other key returnees are junior RB Eugene Foster (681 yards) and senior LB Andrew Hyde (67 tackles).

12. WHEATON (ILL.) CRUSADERS

OVERVIEW: After an unbeaten regular season, the Crusaders routed Wittenberg, 63-14, before losing to Mount Union in the quarterfinals. But Wheaton (10-1) lost the heart of its offense with the graduation of quarterback Jeff Brown, fullback Pedro Arruza and center Doug Johnston.

The Crusaders must find someone to get the ball to senior wide receiver Mark Loeffler, who is second on the school's all-time receptions list with 169. All-America linebacker Chip Parrish (149 tackles, four INTs) returns to lead the defense.

13. EMORY & HENRY (VA.) WASPS

OVERVIEW: The champions of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference went undefeated last year before losing to Washington & Jefferson in the first round of the postseason.

A couple of standout linemen return to give the

Wasps some steady play in the trenches. Guard Kevin Rogers is a two-time all-league selection, and defensive lineman Jamie Harless set school marks for tackles for loss in a season (13) and quarterback hurries in a game (seven).

14. RIPON (WIS.) RED HAWKS

OVERVIEW: There are plenty of quality players back, especially junior linebacker Brock Goehler, a first-team all-conference selection as both a freshman and a sophomore. Defensive back Jim Wallace is a double-threat, intercepting nine passes for 149 yards as well as leading the nation with 17.9 yards per punt return. Receiver Bill Schultz, who caught 59 passes for 976 yards and 11 touchdowns last year, is also back.

15. WASHINGTON (MO.) BEARS

OVERVIEW: Washington (9-1) has a flock of returning players including the keys to its aerial attack—quarterback Thor Larsen and wide receiver Josh Haza. But Washington also is talented and experienced on the defensive side of the ball with end Aaron Boehm, linebacker Jeremy Bellinghausen and defensive back Chris Nalley.

16. CENTRAL (IOWA) FLYING DUTCHMEN

OVERVIEW: One of the winningest teams of the 1990s with a 56-7-1 record, Central (10-1) must replace 13 starters, including two All-Americans in linebacker Rick Sanger and center Mark Bandstra. But all eyes will be on the return of tailback Mark Kacmarynski. The school's all-time leading rusher (4,252 yards), Kacmarynski will attempt to return from a broken leg suffered last year.

17. MARIETTA (OHIO) PIONEERS

OVERVIEW: Quarterback Aaron Conte returns after setting single-season school records for completions, yards and touchdown passes. The losses of running back Curt Weikert, defensive end Jason Olivea, linebacker Mike Guy and defensive back Alan Varrasso—all keys to an 8-1-1 season—will be felt.

18. WARTBURG (IOWA) KNIGHTS

OVERVIEW: The Knights (9-1) lost one of the best defensive players in the country with the graduation of end Vince Penningroth. But Wartburg fans can take solace in the fact that talented quarterback Brian Nelson returns for his senior year after passing for 1,600 yards and a school-record 19 touchdowns with just three interceptions.

19. UNION (N.Y.) DUTCHMEN

OVERVIEW: Very quietly, Union has put together quite a record in the '90s. The Dutchmen are 50-9 with three playoff appearances, including last year when they defeated Plymouth State in the first round before losing to Rowan.

Union (9-2) will have to keep its successful decade going with defense, as senior linebacker Bobby Champlin and sophomore defensive back Justin Campbell are two of the team's top players. Campbell had two interceptions, five fumble recoveries, four blocked kicks and two returns for touchdowns.

20. WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS FALCONS

OVERVIEW: The Falcons finished runner-up to La Crosse in the Wisconsin State University

Conference. River Falls also won its first-round game against Central (Iowa) before losing to the eventual champion in the quarterfinals.

The Falcons return wide receiver Craig Boen and defensive end Woody Fangmeir, but they must find replacements for standout quarterback Adam Knowles and linebacker Ryan Sinn.

21. WESLEY (DEL.) WOLVERINES

OVERVIEW: The independent school went 8-2 a year ago and returns all-purpose whiz Brandon Steinheim. The senior running back rushed for 1,343 yards last year with 18 touchdowns and has a string of 10 consecutive 100-yard games. Steinheim set an NCAA all-division record for kickoff return average in 1994 (42.2 ypr.). The Wolverines can also throw the ball, thanks to the return of junior quarterback Marc Harris (1,665 yards, 13 TDs). Senior defensive tackle Demetrius Stevenson (11 sacks) leads the defense.

22. AUGUSTANA (ILL.) VIKINGS

OVERVIEW: No Division III preseason list would be complete without the Vikings, who have slipped somewhat since being the Team of the 1980s.

The Vikings (6-3) face a bit of a rebuilding task, though, with the graduation of the school's all-time leading rusher Scott Tumilty (3,794 yards) and all-time leading tackler, linebacker Rusty Van Wetzlinga (400-plus tackles).

All is not lost, though. Four starters return on the offensive line, paced by All-America candidate Ryan Carpenter. Running behind this experienced front will be Gulf War veteran Thomas Cole (372 yards in 1995). The defense will be led by all-conference cornerback Chris Timmons.

23. ILLINOIS WESLEYAN TITANS

OVERVIEW: The Titans were solid on both sides of the ball last year, averaging 29.4 points per game while allowing 14.4. But the best news for the season is the return of the passing combination of Lon Erickson and Ryan Tusek. Erickson finished 11th in the nation in total offense and threw for 2,115 yards and 18 touchdowns. Tusek caught 65 passes for 863 yards and 11 TDs. Their defensive MVP, John Munch (82 tackles), is also back.

24. LA VERNE (CALIF.) LEOPARDS

OVERVIEW: The Leopards are coming off their second straight 9-0 regular season. They return half of their 1-2 running punch in Anthony Rice, who gained 899 yards on 102 attempts. The other half, Anthony Jones (1,453 yards), has graduated. There should be plenty of holes for Rice to run through with third-team All-America center Andy Moran (6-3, 285) leading the way.

25. THOMAS MORE (KY.) SAINTS

OVERVIEW: The Saints are 44-6 in regular-season games since 1991, including a perfect 10-0 in 1995. The secret of their success last year was leading the country in turnover margin (+28). The loss of 12 starters will hurt, but tackle Brett Moses and guard Wayne Hall should be solid anchors along the offensive line, which will give tailback Dan Calhoun (954 yards, nine TDs) a shot at a 1,000-yard season.

Chip Mundy is a staff writer for the Jackson (Mich.) Citizen Patriot.

NAIA

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

JASON TRUMAN, WESTERN MONTANA

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

NATE ARNOLD, FINDLAY (OHIO)

BY DAVID SCOTT

Many head coaches in the NAIA are Not Altogether In Agreement about what the dissolving of Divisions I and II into one large conference really means. For some, it was the only way NAIA football could survive the defection of teams to the NCAA. For others, it's a hassle in trying to conform to new scholarship requirements intended to create more level competition. In the long run, most agree it will create a stronger football division. All of this may be moot if, as was rumored near press time, the NAIA decided to remain in its two-division format for at least one more year.

With the dwindling number of Division I teams, it would seem most logical to stick with one large division with 100-plus teams that could rival the NCAA's I-A in terms of both number of teams and competition level. But well past recruiting season, the changing landscape of NAIA football was still very much a work in progress. Montana Tech coach Bob Green summed it up best when he said, "I'm not exactly sure how it will all shake down."

One thing is certain in the uncertain world of NAIA football: Last year's Division I national champ Central State (Ohio) won't be back to defend its title. The Marauders have decided to play an independent schedule this season as they await acceptance into NCAA Division II.

ALL-NAIA TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	JASON TRUMAN	WESTERN MONTANA	6-3/180	Sr.
RB	GREG THOMAS	CLINCH VALLEY (VA.)	5-8/190	Sr.
RB	WILLIE MURRAY	GENEVA (Pa.)	6-0/245	Sr.
WR	TOMMY THOMAS	WESTERN MONTANA	5-11/180	Sr.
WR	KARL LERUM	PACIFIC LUTHERAN	6-3/205	Jr.
TE	TODD DURISH	GENEVA (Pa.)	6-5/246	Sr.
OL	TYREE MYLES	SOUTHWESTERN (KAN.)	6-3/275	Sr.
OL	JASON LONG	DICKINSON (N.D.)	6-2/280	Jr.
OL	DAVID BIBB	GEORGETOWN (Ky.)	6-0/250	Sr.
OL	SVEN OUDERDORP	LAMBUTH (TENN.)	6-6/290	Sr.
OL	ROBERT JONES	MALONE (OHIO)	6-0/292	Sr.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	ORLANDOR JOSEPH	HARDING (ARK.)	6-0/250	Sr.
DL	MOSES SHERMAN	MALONE (OHIO)	6-1/280	Sr.
DL	ROBERT NEWBERG	SW OKLAHOMA	6-3/270	Sr.
DL	NATE ARNOLD	FINDLAY (OHIO)	6-1/288	Sr.
LB	TERRY BELL	E. CENTRAL (OKLA.)	6-0/210	Sr.
LB	CRAIG MILLS	WESTMINSTER (Pa.)	6-1/218	Sr.
LB	JASON WALLICK	MALONE (OHIO)	6-0/215	Jr.
DB	BRIAN COLE	WESTMAR (IOWA)	6-0/210	Sr.
DB	PHIL PORTER	SIoux FALLS (S.D.)	5-11/195	Jr.
DB	JEROME WALKER	UNION (Ky.)	6-2/220	Sr.
DB	GORDON SMITH	NW OKLAHOMA	6-0/178	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	WADE GEBERS	W. WASHINGTON	5-10/180	Sr.
P	RUSTY OGLESBY	H. SIMMONS (TEXAS)	6-0/185	Sr.
RS	DUANE MONLUX	DICKINSON ST. (N.D.)	6-3/200	Sr.

1. MALONE (OHIO) COLLEGE PIONEERS

OVERVIEW: Last season, in just the third year of the Malone football program, coach Mike Gravier led the Pioneers to a 10-1-1 record, and some quick math says that this year's senior class is the group that started the Malone program. "We've got some experience," understated Gravier. Malone returns 19 starters on offense and defense. The departure of wide receiver Eric Miller leaves a hole, but quarterback Shane Nalepa will surely discover a new favorite target. Perhaps Gravier can find some time for Emmitt Smith's cousin, senior Reggie Pryor, who is a reserve wideout.

2. PACIFIC LUTHERAN (Wash.) LUTES

OVERVIEW: Legendary coach Frosty Westering begins the 1996 season with a new right hip (replaced during off-season surgery) and a top-5 ranking that has become old hat for PLU's coach of 25 years. The Lutes return 10 starters on defense and eight on offense from last year's 6-3-1 team. Junior quarterback Dak Jordan, who was sixth in D-II in passing last season, looks to match last year's 2,600-plus throwing yards. The defense will be headed by the Lutes' top two returning tacklers from last season—junior linebacker Travis Hale (108 tackles, three sacks) and Jon Roberts (67 tackles, team-high 7.5 sacks for 42 yards). If running back Pete Finstuen can return to his pre-knee injury form which saw him gain 991 all-purpose yards as freshman in 1994, the Lutes are going to be tough to beat.

3. GENEVA (Pa.) GOLDEN TORNADES

OVERVIEW: Coach Gene DeMarco has guided his teams to marked improvement in each of his three years. The Golden Tornadoes went 4-5 in his first year, then finished 6-3 in 1994 and wound up 9-2 last season. "These kids have really developed and progressed with the program," said DeMarco, who returns all 11 defensive starters and eight offensive first-stringers. DeMarco returns All-America senior running back Willie Murray and was impressed with the spring workouts turned in by NFL-sized sophomore Harry Romigh, a 6-foot-5, 325-pound guard.

4. WESTERN WASHINGTON VIKINGS

OVERVIEW: What a pleasant surprise Western Washington coach Rob Smith discovered when he was informed that wide receiver Chris Nicholl, who caught 52 passes for 1,064 yards last year, was not actually the senior that he had been listed as during last season. "We didn't expect to have him back, but in checking we found he had another year of eligibility," Smith said. Nicholl had transferred from Boise State and the discovery could mean big things for the Vikings who went 9-1 last year, losing to eventual D-II national co-champion Central Washington.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. MALONE (OHIO)
2. PACIFIC LUTHERAN (WASH.)
3. GENEVA (Pa.)
4. WESTERN WASHINGTON
5. LAMBUTH (TENN.)
6. WESTERN MONTANA
7. HOWARD PAYNE (TEXAS)
8. FINDLAY (OHIO)
9. WESTMINSTER (Pa.)
10. HARDIN SIMMONS (TEXAS)
11. CENTRAL WASHINGTON
12. BETHANY (KAN.)
13. UNION (Ky.)
14. MARY (N.D.)
15. SIOUX FALLS (S.D.)
16. CLINCH VALLEY (VA.)
17. WESTMAR (IOWA)
18. DICKINSON STATE (N.D.)
19. EVANGEL (Mo.)
20. SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA
21. WALSH (OHIO)
22. GEORGETOWN (Ky.)
23. LINFIELD (ORE.)
24. BENEDICTINE (KAN.)
25. SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA

5. LAMBUTH (Tenn.) EAGLES

OVERVIEW: It is certainly in the realm of possibility that the 1996 season could begin and end the same way for Lambuth—with a game against Malone. The teams will meet on Sept. 7 and might clash again in the national championship game. Lambuth returns eight players each on offense and defense and coach Vic Wallace is high on the senior leadership of quarterback Cory Hill and his Fearsome Finlanders, senior offensive lineman Joachim Salo (6-3, 300) and senior defensive lineman Jari Utunen (6-4, 240).

6. WESTERN MONTANA BULLDOGS

OVERVIEW: It might be time to rename the pre-season NAIA Player of the Year honor as the Truman Award. For the second straight year, senior Jason Truman enters the season as the nation's best offensive player, leading Western Montana as the Bulldogs and first-year head coach Nels Kludt hope to improve on last year's 7-3 record. While Truman led the nation in passing with 3,190 yards, his go-to wide receiver, senior Tommy Thomas, led the nation in receiving with 15.7 yards per catch.

7. HOWARD PAYNE (Texas) YELLOW JACKETS

OVERVIEW: Howard Payne returns nine offensive starters, but it's one of the three non-returnees that leaves the biggest question mark for coach Vance Gibson. The quarterback position is coming down to a battle between Wes St. Austin and Dwayne Green. Whoever wins the starting spot will be given the reins of a senior-laden team that finished 7-3 last season. The Yellow Jackets had the seventh-best rushing defense in Division II last season and should be strong again with the return of all-conference middle linebacker Dale Meineke.

8. FINDLAY (Ohio) OILERS

OVERVIEW: The NAIA Division II co-champions are poised for another title run, but coach Dick Strahm will have to rely on his defense in the early part of the season while a young offensive line gels. It should be no problem for Findlay, which was ranked No. 1 in numerous categories last year and returns nine starters, including first-team All-America senior Nate Arnold on the defensive line and junior strong safety Mike Weihrauch.

9. WESTMINSTER (Pa.) TITANS

OVERVIEW: Just two years removed from an NAIA Division II national championship, Westminster, a team synonymous with championship play, endured a disappointing 4-3-2 1995 campaign. Coach Gene Nicholson's Titans anxiously await the return of 1994 All-America running back Andy Blatt, who sat out last season with a knee injury, and has a solid defense anchored by two-time All-America linebacker Craig Mills.

10. HARDIN-SIMMONS (Texas) COWBOYS

OVERVIEW: Coach Jimmie Keeling's program has made four straight playoff appearances and looks like a lock for number five with the return of senior quarterback (and Pre-Med major) Todd Baumann, who threw for 2,113 yards and 23 touchdowns last year as the Cowboys finished 9-2. The Cowboys open up with NCAA Division I-AA Prairie View A&M, who holds the nation's longest losing streak at 57. "We're sticking our neck out a little on that one," Keeling said.

11. CENTRAL WASHINGTON WILDCATS

OVERVIEW: Quarterback Jon Kitna left Central Washington with more records than a New York City club disc jockey, which is great for his professional chances and not so great for the Wildcats (10-3-1 last year) as they look to defend the Division II championship they shared with Findlay. But coach Jeff Zenisek hands over the quarterbacking duties to senior Ryan Fournier. "We're just telling him to be who you are, don't try to be Jon. Ryan's a great leader and he's aware of what he can and can't do," Zenisek said.

12. BETHANY (Kan.) SWEDES

OVERVIEW: Amazing what a 10-1 season can do for recruiting . . . and the REM cycle. "It helps recruiting and it helps you sleep at night as well," said well-rested Bethany coach Dr. Ted Kessinger. The Swedes went 10-1 last season while averaging 532 yards of total offense and a nation-best 47 points per game. Senior All-America quarterback Jorge Munoz will once again team with All-America wide receiver Van Mortensen to form a potent scoring threat.

13. UNION (Ky.) BULLDOGS

OVERVIEW: Two key things for Union opponents to beware of: The Bulldogs return all 11 starters from the defense that finished No. 5 in the nation last year, and Union, which wound up ranked No. 16 in the country, is a bit upset that it was left out of the playoffs. The Bulldogs may have a legitimate gripe, having finished 7-2-1 and tying No. 2 Lambuth in the season finale. Two keys on the defense will be senior strong safety Jerome Walker and senior defensive end Jay Fanning. Keith Wynn returns for his third year as the starting quarterback.

14. MARY (N.D.) MARAUDERS

OVERVIEW: Even with an unsettled situation at quarterback, coach Tom Shea has to feel pretty good about his nine returning starters on offense, especially his Two-Grand Men, the running back tandem of junior Eric Chin and senior Steve Walker, who combined for over 2,000 yards rushing last season. The Marauders finished 11-2, but lost six defensive starters, including a front four that helped Mary finish the year as Division II's sixth-best defense (fourth-best against the run).

15. SIOUX FALLS (S.D.) COUGARS

OVERVIEW: If balance were a team, its name would be Sioux Falls. Last year's 11-1 team averaged 223 yards on the ground and 261 yards in the air; the Cougars had nine players with 10 or more rushing carries and seven with 15 or more receptions; and they had 16 players with 20 or more tackles. Coach Bob Young returns 19 starters (10 on defense) and the squad has more seniors than a bingo parlor, including the dynamic duo of quarterback Kurtiss Riggs and receiver Kalen DeBoer, who hooked up more than 80 times for close to 1,200 yards.

16. CLINCH VALLEY (Va.) CAVALIERS

OVERVIEW: Coach Bill Ramseyer's Cavaliers made a steady climb from their No. 23 ranking to begin last season, all the way up to No. 5 midseason, ultimately finishing No. 12 with a 10-2 record. The Cavs won't have as far to climb this season, but they also won't have All-America tight end Shonn Bell, who graduated. But Clinch is a cinch for the playoffs with the nation's leading returning scorer, senior running back Greg Thomas, who averaged just under two TDs per game. The Cavs were first in the nation in pass defense as well.

17. WESTMAR (Iowa) EAGLES

OVERVIEW: Senior running back Eddie Davis, the older brother of Heisman hopeful Troy Davis at Iowa State, leads Westmar into its first season under head coach Jeff Menage. Davis rushed for 922 yards last season, averaging 5.0 yards per carry and also had eight kickoff returns for 276 yards and two touchdowns. Four starters return on the offensive line that cleared many a path for Davis, and free safety Brian Cole (second in NAIA with eight interceptions) heads up a list of eight defensive returnees.

18. DICKINSON (N.D.) BLUE HAWKS

OVERVIEW: Duane Monlux hasn't yet adopted the "Slash" nickname that Kordell Stewart made popular with the Pittsburgh Steelers, but it might just about be time. Monlux, a junior quarterback/wide receiver/tailback/kick returner for the Blue Hawks, earned All-America honors for his kick return duties for 10-1 Dickinson last season (averaging 33.7 yards per return) and coach Hank Biesiot hinted that Monlux could see some time on defense. But Monlux needs help at running back, lest he be handing off to himself.

19. EVANGEL (Mo.) CRUSADERS

OVERVIEW: Keith Barfield's Evangel team finished with a string of five straight wins to conclude last year's 6-2-1 campaign, and the team seemed to play its best football with quarterback Brian McNabb at the controls. Good news Crusaders fans: McNabb is back for his senior year after off-season knee

surgery, and on the defensive side of the ball, senior cornerback Troy Clayton returns with last year's honorable mention All-America honors in tow.

20. SE OKLAHOMA SAVAGES

OVERVIEW: Southeastern Oklahoma quarterback Jeff Moser is chomping at the bit to get back on the field and build on last season's 190-for-340, 2,814-yard passing performance that earned him second-team All-America honors. Not only can he look downfield and see first-team All-America wide receiver Lamar Lowe (who also tied the NAIA record with three kickoff returns for touchdowns) but Moser will be able to find talented Navarro Junior College transfer Tommy Blackmon. The bizarre thing is that Moser might be the second-best passer on the team. Keep an eye on sophomore Chris Enloe.

21. WALSH (Ohio) CAVALIERS

OVERVIEW: Coach Jim Dennison described his current head coaching job at Walsh as his "retirement job . . . If you like 16-hour work days." Indeed Dennison enjoys long days—days that paid off with a 7-3 record last year, the program's first. All-America sophomore tailback Damont Skanes returns after rushing for 1,049 yards last season and sophomore quarterback Matt Jensen has a year of Dennison's system under his belt.

22. GEORGETOWN (Ky.) TIGERS

OVERVIEW: The Georgetown football team is sort of like George Foreman's kids — everybody's a junior. Because of that, coach Bob Brush thinks his team might still be a year away the upper echelon of the NAIA. Junior quarterback Pat Sapp is healthy again after missing the first half of last season with a shoulder injury, and the defense has more Brandons than the "Beverly Hills 90210" fan club, with junior nose guard Brandon Wilson and senior linebacker Brandon Albright.

23. LINFIELD (Ore.) WILDCATS

OVERVIEW: First-year head coach Jay Loecey, who spent 13 seasons as defensive coordinator, takes over a team that lost 18 seniors and finished 6-3. His biggest concern entering the 1996 campaign is finding leadership and filling some holes on the defensive line. The defensive backfield, however, is solid with the seniors Brandon Hughes and Bryan Piaskey.

24. BENEDCTINE (Kan.) RAVENS

OVERVIEW: Having won 24 of its last 26 home games at Amelia Earhart Stadium, Benedictine will look to soar again in 1996 after a successful 9-1 campaign last year for head coach Larry Wilcox. The Ravens averaged almost 500 yards of offense and 40 points per game last season. Sophomores Bill Lindquist and Jamie Smith will battle for the quarterback spot.

25. SW OKLAHOMA BULLDOGS

OVERVIEW: Paul Sharp's team had trouble finding a groove, stringing together no more than two wins in a row during a mediocre 5-5 season. Things could be a bit different this year in Weatherford with 15 of 22 starters returning, led by the team's leading tackler for the past three seasons, linebacker Yohance Brown, who had 119 tackles last year. The 'Dogs have to replace quarterback Todd Ritz, who threw for 2,000 yards last season, but two of the top receivers return in seniors Alvin Milton (37 catches for 608 yards) and Reggie Jackson (32 for 546 yards). ☺

JUCO

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

VAUGHN INNISS, BLINN COLLEGE

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

SHAWN CASH, GEORGIA MILITARY

By ANDY KATZ

The numbers provide the case. California has 70 junior college teams. You won't find too many more than that in the rest of the country.

But does that equate to a better product on the football field? The statistics back up the premise that California places more junior college football players in Division I-A, with 157 players.

"There's just more talent here," said Fresno City College coach Steve Mooshagian.

The strength of the California junior college system can be attributed to the lack of I-A football schools compared to the population of the state. Stanford, Cal, UCLA, USC, San Diego State, San Jose State and Fresno State are the only I-A schools in the state, and the latter three are a recruit's most viable in-state option. UCLA and Cal, the other two public universities, have to be more selective academically. Stanford and USC are private. Hence, more players are forced to go the junior-college route. But does that make California JUCO ball the best?

"Our conference in Texas is the toughest in the nation," said Blinn coach Willie Fritz. "We recruit all over the country. You're not going to find better players."

ALL-JUCO TEAM

OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
QB	MICHAEL BISHOP	BLINN	6-2/200	SOPH.
RB	VAUGHN INNISS	BLINN	5-9/185	SOPH.
RB	REGGIE SKINNER	NE OKLAHOMA	5-9/215	SOPH.
WR	SAM PADGITT	TRINITY VALLEY	6-4/200	SOPH.
WR	EUGENE CHILDS	COLL. OF DU PAGE	6-3/195	SOPH.
TE	CURTIS SANDERS	MIDDLE GEORGIA	6-6/275	SOPH.
OL	HOWARD WHITNEY	SNOW COLLEGE	6-8/305	SOPH.
OL	TRAVIS WITAKER	NASSAU	6-6/300	SOPH.
OL	JAMIE RODGERS	MERCED	6-7/310	SOPH.
OL	RYAN COMEAU	BUTTE	6-4/300	SOPH.
OL	SCOTT FERGUS	RANCHO SANTIAGO	6-7/290	SOPH.

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
DL	PAUL BREED	S.F. CITY COLL.	6-7/290	SOPH.
DL	CRAIG KOONTZ	BLINN	6-4/220	SOPH.
DL	SHAWN CASH	GEORGIA MILITARY	6-4/240	SOPH.
LB	CHRIS FREEMAN	GEORGIA MILITARY	6-2/230	SOPH.
LB	ROGER ALEXANDER	NASSAU	6-2/205	SOPH.
LB	ALBERT DORSEY	LONG BEACH	6-2/235	SOPH.
LB	GABE VILLARREAL	TRINITY VALLEY	6-1/215	SOPH.
DB	EARL RILEY	MERCED	6-3/210	SOPH.
DB	LEAPHER CASTLEBERRY	FRESNO CITY	6-1/205	SOPH.
DB	BRANDON HARRISON	BLINN	6-0/180	SOPH.
DB	SHELDON HORNBUCKLE	TRINITY VALLEY	5-9/183	SOPH.

SPECIAL TEAMS

POS.	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT./WT.	YEAR
K	TIM HARDWAY	GEORGIA MILITARY	5-10/175	SOPH.
P	JERRY ARGUERELLO	RANCHO SANTIAGO	5-11/185	SOPH.
RS	KEVIN BROOKS	GARDEN CITY	5-9/170	SOPH.

1. BLINN (TEXAS) COLLEGE BUCCANEERS

OVERVIEW: Blinn (12-0) scored 419 points and gave up 140 in winning the NJCAA title. The Buccaneers have a legitimate shot at challenging for the title again with quarterback Michael Bishop (2,000-plus yards total offense) returning. He'll have tailback Vaughn Inniss, who rushed for 1,195 yards, back. Defensively, Fritz has more than enough returning to offset an offensive deficiency. Defensive stalwarts Craig Koontz (6-foot-4, 220 pounds), Ray Lacey (6-1, 215) and Hanson Caston (6-2, 225) are vicious hitters. Brandon Harrison directs the secondary and returns kicks.

2. GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE BULLDOGS

OVERVIEW: The 10-1 record of last season should be surpassed. The strength begins on the lines where the Bulldogs return center Kelvin Williams (6-6, 295) and defensive end Shawn Cash (6-4, 240). Chris Freeman (6-2, 230) moves to linebacker. The defense is even deeper with strong safety Demetrice Smith and middle linebacker Antonio Andrews. Quarterback Jimbo Rozar has the best shot at being first on the depth chart. The Bulldogs are deep at wide receiver but have to develop a ground game.

3. GARDEN CITY (KAN.) CC BRONCBUSTERS

OVERVIEW: The Broncbusters return eight starters on offense and six on defense, allowing coach Jim Gush to proclaim this team good enough to challenge for the national title. The offense is led by quarterback Jay Alexander, with handoffs going to tailback Isaac Harvin. Garden City has balance defensively with linemen Greg Derrick (6-6, 266) and Andre Wray (6-6, 268). Linebacker James Milton and cornerback Kevin Brooks give the Broncbusters stoppers throughout the middle of the field.

4. COLLEGE OF DU PAGE (ILL.) CHAPARRALS

OVERVIEW: The defense was rated No. 1 in the country last season, and the Chaparrals (12-0) will find it tough to match their amazing statistic against the run. They gave up a mere 35 ground yards per game. A few return to help them keep pace, beginning with linebacker Ricky Harris, defensive tackle Casey Jackson and cornerback Ron MacCannon. DuPage has won 35 straight games, the longest winning streak in the country. Quarterback Brian Hawkins has a line led by guard Tom Pacini (6-5, 285), a receiver in Eugene Childs and a talented back to hand off to in Mack Shead.

5. TRINITY VALLEY (TEXAS) CC CARDINALS

OVERVIEW: The Cardinals still need to find a proven quarterback to run the system. Sam Padgitt is one of the most sought after receivers in the country. The problem was that the Cardinals didn't throw the ball as much last season after losing Donald Sellers to New Mexico. Tailback Fred Smith (5-10,

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. BLINN (TEXAS) COLLEGE
2. GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE
3. GARDEN CITY (KAN.) CC
4. COLLEGE OF DU PAGE (ILL.)
5. TRINITY VALLEY (TEXAS) CC
6. GROSSMOUNT (CALIF.) COLLEGE
7. SACRAMENTO CITY (CALIF.) COLLEGE
8. HINDS (MISS.) CC
9. MIDDLE GEORGIA COLLEGE
10. LONG BEACH CITY (CALIF.) COLLEGE
11. RANCHO SANTIAGO (CALIF.) COLLEGE
12. NASSAU (N.Y.) CC
13. NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA A&M
14. CERRITOS (CALIF.) COLLEGE
15. LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE
16. BAKERSFIELD (CALIF.) COLLEGE
17. CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO
18. MERCED (CALIF.) COLLEGE
19. FRESNO CITY (CALIF.) COLLEGE
20. BUTTE (CALIF.) COLLEGE
21. SAN BERNARDINO (CALIF.) VALLEY
22. DIXIE (UTAH) COLLEGE
23. EL CAMINO (CALIF.) COLLEGE
24. MOUNT SAN ANTONIO (CALIF.) JC
25. HUTCHINSON (KAN.) CC

190) gives the Cardinals a quick, elusive back. The defense is solid with linebacker Gabe Villarreal (6-1, 215), lineman Larry Brandon (6-2, 300) and cornerback Sheldon Hornbuckle (5-9, 183), who snagged six interceptions two seasons ago.

6. GROSSMOUNT (CALIF.) COLLEGE GRIFFINS

OVERVIEW: The top quarterback is found in southern California. Akili Smith (6-4, 220) threw for close to 2,000 yards last season. He's got a target in Donald Haynes, who should be nearly as heavily recruited as Smith. The line is anchored by tackle Kyle McComb (6-4, 285). Defensively, look for free safety Todd Hovey (6-3, 195) as well as tackles Tony Matautia (6-3, 300) and Ricky Leung-Wai (6-3, 275) to be some of the top recruitable athletes in this region.

7. SACRAMENTO CITY (CALIF.) PANTHERS

OVERVIEW: Sacramento City returns 42 players off a team which went 9-2 last season. The stable is stocked offensively with quarterback Brendon Edmonds at quarterback, Jacobi Hill at running back, Warren Schroeder at tight end and Braxton Bonner (6-4, 292) and Donta Kendrick (6-4, 275) along the offensive line. The down linemen will be led by Troy Hamilton (6-2, 265), and the rest of the middle defensively has linebacker Chris Craft and free safety Anthony Barrow.

8. HINDS (MISS.) CC EAGLES

OVERVIEW: While the Eagles need to replace a superb quarterback in Fred Taylor, the offensive line and kicking game are good enough to propel this team to a top-10 spot. Kevin Prentiss will make the transition easy for a newcomer at quarterback. The receiver finds the holes and puts on

the burners once he catches the ball. Creating holes for punishing 911-yard rusher Greg Manson will be lineman Jamar Fordham (6-1, 315). The three to watch defensively are linebacker Orlando Patterson, defensive back Daniel Willis and lineman Patrick House.

9. MIDDLE GEORGIA COLLEGE WARRIORS

OVERVIEW: The Warriors burst onto the national scene with a 10-2 record and should follow that up with another nationally recognized season. Fullback Rod Sparks gets most of the work offensively, following the lead of offensive guard Larry Cowart (6-3, 302). Curtis Sanders (6-6, 275) can be a punishing tight end, and Anthony Johnson is the leading contender at quarterback. Defensively, Henry Robbins, the MVP of the Mineral Water Bowl, should have another outstanding season at middle linebacker. Antonio Cochran (6-5, 285) has good speed, and Quintin Blakely (6-6, 270), who redshirted at Purdue two years ago, gives the Warriors another fine end.

10. LONG BEACH CITY (CALIF.) VIKINGS

OVERVIEW: The Vikings were the best team in California, finishing 11-0 last season. If they can replace a quarterback and develop speed at wide receiver, the Vikings should be as potent offensively. The running game is secure with Shawn Bane. Tyler Tomich could take over at quarterback for departed standout Neo Aoga. The line will be anchored by Mike Brown (6-4, 300), Cory Bykoski (6-3, 310) and Alex Maliga (6-3, 320). Linebackers Albert Dorsey and Dennis Elisia are solid. Kicker Ryan Downey should play Division I ball.

11. RANCHO SANTIAGO (CALIF.) DONS

OVERVIEW: A 6-5 finish a year ago should be erased with a run at a bowl berth this season. Quarterback Mark Fausto and John Daniels, who has been out for a year and will be forced to play Division II football next season, make for a potent passing team. Mike Ogas is a strong receiver and Germaine Gray should be a solid running back. The defense returns only three of 11 starters, but they shouldn't be on the field much with the potentially effective offense. The secondary will be manned by Tristan Lynch and Quincy Daniels.

12. NASSAU (N.Y.) CC LIONS

OVERVIEW: Finishing 9-2 should be a realistic goal again for the Lions. Returning is quarterback Mel Daniels (6-2, 190), who passed for 16 touchdowns and 1,381 yards. A definite Division I-A prospect, Daniels should build up his resume by handing off to Alishma Alexander, who originally signed with Mississippi out of high school. Travis Whitaker (6-6, 300) anchors the offensive line. Nassau relies on freshmen to bolster the receivers and tight end spots. Linebackers Roger Alexander and Rich Butcofski return. The secondary is led by Roddie Mason and Amad Anderson.

13. NE OKLAHOMA A&M GOLDEN NORSEMEN

OVERVIEW: The Norsemen might have the top rushing attack in the country this season. Reggie Skinner and John Humphrey have the combination of strength and quickness to punish defenses. Cory Green has a chance to be an excellent receiver after sitting out last season with a broken collarbone. Rodney Smith and Craig Strickland give the Norsemen more quality receivers. The defense has questions, especially at the down linemen and line-

backer spots. Cory Ivy (5-10, 185) is the best of a secondary filled with three returning players.

14. CERRITOS (CALIF.) COLLEGE FALCONS

OVERVIEW: The Falcons finished 5-4-1 but should shed 1995's disappointment rather quickly. Scott Allmon (6-6, 290) creates holes for running back Corey Kelley. Both redshirted last season. Quarterback is a shaky position as is wide receiver. Redshirt Don Sams (6-4, 250) should have an impact at linebacker this fall. Avery Bryant (6-2, 310) is pivotal along the defensive front while Mark Hays and Arlan Wells will be counted on in the secondary.

15. LOS ANGELES VALLEY MONARCHS

OVERVIEW: The nucleus returns to give the Monarchs a chance at coming close to 1995's 10-1 record. Back for the offense is tailback Marcus Harvey, who gained 1,096 yards as a freshman. Willie Perryman returns at tight end, and Eric Ruhl will be back at receiver. The questions for the Monarchs lie mainly defensively, where every defensive starter needs to be replaced. Henry Bell and Ron Allen played enough last season in the secondary to be counted on.

16. BAKERSFIELD (CALIF.) RENEGADES

OVERVIEW: Not too many teams in the state return a top quarterback, and Bakersfield has the edge with Nathan Sparks. He'll have targets in Utah State-transfer Andy Puget and tight end Matt Cicone. Two of five starters return on the offensive line. The Renegades feel more secure with their potential next season if they can solidify the defensive front. The linebackers are all back, led by Chad Grider, Jonathan Gardner and Jerome Simpkins.

17. COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO RAMS

OVERVIEW: Coach George Rush lost 17 starters off a team which finished 9-2. The Rams should be just as competitive as in 1995, led by a massive defensive front. Paul Breed (6-7, 290) and Tarrence Ingram (6-8, 320) give the Rams one of the tallest, if not the strongest, defensive lines in the country. Jabari Jackson is one of the top returning rushers, posting 1,200-plus yards last season. The Rams have questions at receiver but should have the freshmen to adequately fill those spots as well as along the defensive line.

18. MERCED (CALIF.) COLLEGE BLUE DEVILS

OVERVIEW: Coach Tony Lewis has a running game to count on, led by Dalevon Smith, who was the top rusher in Merced's conference and third in the state. The offensive line should plow some holes with Jamie Rodgers (6-7, 310) and Richard Numa (6-4, 300) up front. Tight end Billy Woodard will be easy to spot for former Navy recruit Ryan Koop. The defensive ends are set with Frank Battle and Ernest Daniel. Earl Riley is the top returnee in the secondary at cornerback.

19. FRESNO CITY (CALIF.) COLLEGE RAMS

OVERVIEW: The Rams look for their defense to keep it going early in the season. Defensive linemen Jeff Nelson and Sean Clavette control the front while redshirt sophomore Leapher Castleberry is the mainstay at strong safety. The linebackers need to improve quickly. Jason Rossotti is the apparent quarterback with a plethora of targets, led by Joby Bratcher. A ground game has to mature early in the season as does the chemistry along the offensive line.

20. BUTTE (CALIF.) COLLEGE ROADRUNNERS

OVERVIEW: Butte is coming off a 6-4 season, its worst in 10 years. However, the Roadrunners are cautiously optimistic. They have a superb offensive line, led by tackle Tom James (6-6, 300), center Ryan Comeau (6-4, 300) and guard Carlos Calvillo (6-2, 290). Now, the trick is to find a quarterback and some running backs. The receivers are well-tested and can fly. The defense is in a rebuilding stage with all four defensive backs gone and a young linebacking corps.

21. SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY (CALIF.) INDIANS

OVERVIEW: Repeating a 10-1 record from a year ago might be a stretch but quarterback Mike Burns' return helps. The running game begins with Remiah Jackson. Offensive lineman Chris Kirkland (6-3, 300) and Ed Guzman (6-3, 290) clear the way for Jackson. While Burns waits for receivers to mature, the defense should keep the Indians in games early with lineman Robin Maile, Siala Sialiga, linebacker Jimmy Stewart and defensive back Lamar Perkins.

22. DIXIE (UTAH) COLLEGE REBELS

OVERVIEW: The Rebels' depth was hurt by Mormon church mission departures. The offensive line is strong with Ali Burgess (6-6, 305) leading two of five starters back. Tight end Mike Leatham should have an outstanding season. Three starters return on the defensive line, led by Mana Kula (6-0, 290). But the strength of the defense is probably in the secondary where DaQuinta Smith, Wade Perkins and Chris Paogfie will be asked to cover and knock down passes.

23. EL CAMINO (CALIF.) COLLEGE WARRIORS

OVERVIEW: Here's the test for coach John Featherstone: It's his most inexperienced team in 11 seasons, yet the expectations never change. The Warriors have the potential to come close to matching their 8-3 mark of a year ago. Keep an eye on offensive tackle Ena Usu (6-5, 280), tight end Mark Redoval, defensive lineman Billy McDaniel (6-3, 275) and defensive back Shaka Thomas. The Warriors might play with 60 to 70 percent freshmen this season.

24. MOUNT SAN ANTONIO (CALIF.) JC MOUNTIES

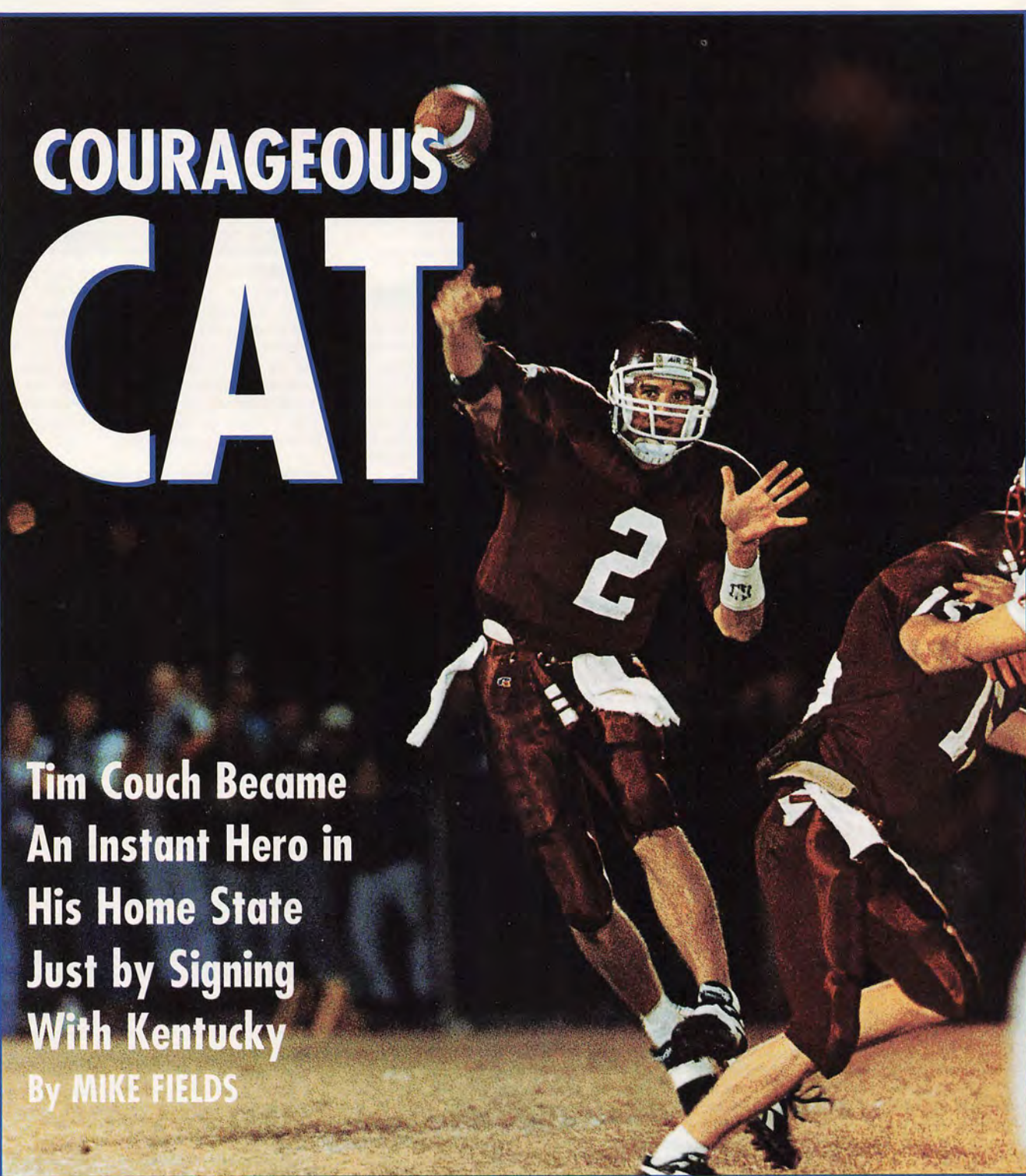
OVERVIEW: The concerns are at running back and quarterback for the Eagles; however, they have a set offensive line with four starters returning, led by Brad Bedell (6-6, 285). The receivers are fine, with Greg Ainsworth as the top catch. The defense needs help from this recruiting class with players up front and in the secondary. The top defensive player is middle linebacker Dicky Purcell.

25. HUTCHINSON (KAN.) CC DRAGONS

OVERVIEW: The Dragons finished 10-2 last season and were the Jayhawk champions. A strong secondary returns as well as a stable receiver corps and offensive line. The concerns are resting mainly along the defensive front. The best Division I prospects are offensive linemen Kareem Wise, Elliott Henderson and Sherman Wilderness as well as defensive tackle Jerry Samuels. The secondary is well stocked, with free safety Tinker Keck and cornerback Bobby Fuller. Linebacker Eric Harper gives the Dragons a defense they can count on.

Andy Katz is a staff writer for the Fresno Bee.

COURAGEOUS CAT



**Tim Couch Became
An Instant Hero in
His Home State
Just by Signing
With Kentucky**
By MIKE FIELDS

Kentucky takes its heroes seriously, and rightly so. Daniel Boone blazed a trail through the wilderness. Abraham Lincoln saved the nation. Colonel Sanders made finger-lickin'-good chicken. Muhammad Ali floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee. Rick Pitino took a program on probation and molded it into the best team in the land. And Tim Couch turned Kentucky's basketball-loony sports fans into football junkies.

Couch's story is extraordinary: A kid from the mountains of eastern Kentucky gains national fame as the greatest passing quarterback in high school history and is courted by the grandest college programs in America, but spurns sure-fire glory to stay home and help the Wildcats rise from football mediocrity.

Is there a TV movie-of-the-week here?

If so, Couch is a ready-made star—a 6-foot-5, 215-pounder with rugged good looks, an easy smile and unbridled confi-

dence tempered by homespun modesty.

He was regarded as a phenom as early as his sophomore year at Leslie County High in Hyden, when his coach flatly stated that Couch was the best quarterback—college or high school—in the state. No bragging, just fact.

Couch finished his career with national records for passing yardage (12,091) and touchdowns (133) and a posse of major college coaches chasing him. Joe Paterno (Penn State), Bobby Bowden (Florida State), Terry Bowden

PREP RECRUITING

TOP 50 H.S. SENIORS

(listed alphabetically)

PLAYER, POSITION	HT./WT.	HIGH SCHOOL
LaVar Arrington, FB/LB	6-4/220	Pittsburgh, Pa., North Hills
Roylin Bradley, LB	6-2/220	LaMarque, Texas
Bruce Branch, WR	6-1/180	Richmond, Va., Huganot
Marcus Bryson, TE	6-4/235	Laurens, S.C.
Cooley Coleman, DL	6-6/260	Atlanta, Ga., Shamrock*
Kelvin Dansby, LB	6-2/212	Birmingham, Ala., Ensley
Char-ron Dorsey, DE	6-6/300	Jacksonville, Fla., Bolles
Tony Driver, RB/DB	6-3/210	Louisville, Ky., Male
Tyree Foreman, RB/DB	6-2/205	Sherwood, Md.
Reggie Germany, WR	6-2/180	Hazelwood, Mo., East
Derrick Gibson, DB	6-3/190	Miami, Fla., Killian
Ron Graham, TE/DE	6-4/230	Pittsburgh, Pa., Penn Hills
Nick Grella, OL	6-7/275	E. Rutherford, N.J., Becton Regional
Nic Hawkins, OL	6-4/300	Visalia, Calif., Mt. Whitney
Grant Irons, LB	6-5/225	Conroe, Texas, McCullough
Chad Irwin, TE	6-4/230	Baytown, Texas, Lee
Darryl Jackson, WR	6-1/185	Tampa, Fla., Catholic
Harold Jackson, LB	6-2/225	Wilkes-Barre, Pa., GAR
Josh Jakubowski, OL	6-6/325	D.C. Everest, Wis.
Robert Johnson, FB	5-11/205	Watson Chapel, Ark.
Maxwell Joseph, RB	6-0/215	Orlando, Fla., Oak Ridge
Kenny Kelly, QB	6-2/185	Tampa, Fla., Catholic
Roderick Kelly, DE	6-6/250	Houston, Texas, Yates
Bryan Kula, DL	6-4/275	Tucson, Ariz., Brophy Prep
Gunter Kryszon, DL	6-5/262	Clark, N.J., Johnson Regional
DeAngelo Lloyd, LB	6-3/225	Charlotte, N.C., Independence
Faasesa Mailo, OL	6-4/310	Kahuku, Hawaii
Sam Matthews, DL	6-6/270	Jacksonville, Fla., Bolles
K. McKenzie, OL/DL	6-6/310	Willingboro, N.J.
Terrence Metcalf, OL	6-4/288	Clarksdale, Miss.
Travis Minor, RB	5-11/190	Baton Rouge, La., Catholic
Hodges Mitchell, RB	5-9/170	Dallas, Texas, Skyline
Zeeke Moreno, LB	6-3/225	Chula Vista, Calif., Castle Park
James Munger, RB	5-9/190	E. Stroudsburg, Pa.
John Norman, DB	6-3/190	Midland, Texas, Lee
Jason Ott, LB	6-4/235	Cincinnati, Ohio, Elder
Brian Polak, OL	6-5/300	Quartz Hill, Calif.
Kenyon Rambo, WR	6-1/185	Long Beach, Calif., Poly
Luke Richmond, QB	6-4/215	Ansonia, Conn.
Jon Ryder, OL	6-5/290	Ferrysburg, Ohio
Brian Scott, WR	6-4/185	Sumter, S.C.
Jammar Sheppard, RB	6-1/190	San Francisco, Calif.
Kenny Smith, DL	6-4/285	Meridian, Miss.
Justin Taplin, WR	6-0/175	Tempe, Ariz.
Marcus Tuiasosopo, DB	6-2/195	Woodinville, Wash.
T.J. Turner, LB	6-3/235	Hillsboro, Ohio
Tony Walker, DB	6-2/190	Antelope Valley, Calif.
David Warren, DE	6-5/235	Tyler, Texas, John Tyler
Antoine Womack, RB	6-1/200	Hampton, Va., Bethel
DaWayne Woods, RB	5-11/180	Slidell, La., Salmen

*Shamrock H.S. is closing, and Coleman will relocate to either Tucker, Lakeside, SW DeKalb or Douglas

Lists compiled by Bill Buchalter, a recruiting analyst for The Orlando Sentinel.

(Auburn), Phil Fulmer (Tennessee), Lou Holtz (Notre Dame), John Cooper (Ohio State) and Steve Spurrier (Florida) all went after the kid with the golden arm.

Early in the recruiting process, Couch established this criteria: "I want to go someplace where I have a chance to win a national championship."

So the rumor mill got cranked up.

In July, Couch was tied to Auburn after starring in a summer camp there. In August, he was supposedly leaning toward Tennessee due to his friendship with Vols quarterback Peyton Manning. September whispers had him secretly committing to Penn State. October found him enamored with Florida's fun-and-gun attack. November arrived, and Ohio State made a late rush.

Through it all, Kentucky fans were in a tizzy. In the midst of another losing season, coach Bill Curry's job seemed to be in jeopardy and the Wildcats' sagging fortunes figured to cost them the most ballyhooed prep player in state history.

One silver lining was Couch's talent and affection for basketball. As a junior, he led the state in scoring with a 36-point average and talked of how he had always dreamed of playing hoops for the Big Blue. If only Rick Pitino would make an overture to Couch about playing basketball and football.

Pitino did just that.

Couch, meanwhile, seemed immune to the swirl of speculation. His parents made no secret that they would love to see their son go to Kentucky, but they left the decision up to him. Finally, in December, Couch narrowed his choices to Kentucky and Tennessee.

Volunteers fans became giddy with delight. They equated Couch's situation with Ron Mercer's earlier that year. Mercer, Tennessee's homegrown basketball star and the National High School Player of the Year, had chosen powerhouse UK over struggling Tennessee. And Mercer made the right choice, scoring 20 points in last April's national title game win over Syracuse. Surely, Tennessee football would get the payback with Couch.

It didn't happen. After midnight

TOP 10 RECRUITING CLASSES

SCHOOL	TOP TWO PLAYERS
1. Ohio State	Andy Katzenmoyer, LB, 6-4, 235 (Westerville, Ohio) Jefferson Kelley, OL, 6-6, 305 (Cincinnati, Ohio)
2. USC	Chris Claiborne, LB, 6-3, 225 (Riverside, Calif.) Travis Claridge, OL, 6-6, 300 (Ft. Vancouver, Wash.)
3. Penn State	Courtney Brown, DE, 6-6, 230 (Moncks Corner, S.C.) Rashard Casey, QB, 6-4, 200 (Hoboken, N.J.)
4. Florida State	Kwaesi Palmer, LB, 6-3, 240 (Sulphur Springs, Texas) Laveraneus Coles, RB, 6-0, 190 (Jacksonville, Fla.)
5. Louisiana State	Alcander Jackson, OL, 6-4, 310 (Moss Point, Miss.) Derrion Yates, DE, 6-7, 230 (Houston, Texas)
6. Tennessee	Dwayne Goodrich, DB, 6-0, 180 (Oak Lawn, Ill.) Brian Darden, RB, 6-0, 195 (Meridian, Miss.)
7. Nebraska	DeAngelo Evans, RB, 5-9, 210 (Wichita, Kan.) Mike Brown, DB, 6-0, 190 (Scottsdale, Ariz.)
8. Baylor	Odell James, QB, 6-4, 210 (Aldine, Texas) Darrell Bush, RB, 5-10, 175 (Houston, Texas)
9. Florida	Shedrick Gurley, DL, 6-3, 245 (Tallahassee, Fla.) Daymon Carroll, RB, 5-10, 175 (Norristown, Pa.)
10. Notre Dame	Jason Ching, DL, 6-4, 270 (Honolulu, Hawaii) Brad Williams, DE, 6-6, 240 (Santa Ana, Calif.)

two days before Christmas, Couch declared his allegiance by slipping on a UK shirt and telling his dad. After rousting Curry with a 2 a.m. phone call, Elbert Couch wept tears of joy. "It was the happiest day of my life," he said.

Less than 12 hours later, Couch strode into a packed ballroom at a downtown Lexington hotel for a press conference that upstaged the Kentucky-Louisville basketball game across the street in Rupp Arena.

"I didn't want to be just another in a great line of quarterbacks," said Couch, explaining why the Wildcats won out over the Vols. "I wanted to start my own name at Kentucky and hopefully get a big tradition started here."


What about his chances for a national title?

"The way I see it, if I can help Kentucky beat Florida or Tennessee, that'll be like winning a national championship," Couch said.

The front-page headline in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* the next day blared the news: "YES, KENTUCKY, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS."

Yes, Kentucky, but can one outrageously gifted quarterback transform a downtrodden program into a SEC contender?

"I don't see myself as a savior," Couch said. "I'm one guy. I can't do it alone, so I won't feel that kind of pressure. But I can help make Kentucky football better and I'll feel a lot of pride every time I step on the field knowing I'm representing my home state."

A Kentucky hero, indeed. 

Mike Fields is a staff writer for the Lexington Herald-Leader.

COMPUTER COLLEGE FOOTBALL

IBM • PC

**THE MOST REALISTIC
STRATEGY/SIMULATION COMPUTER
GAMES ON THE MARKET TODAY!**

Didn't like the way last season went? Would you like to take on Nebraska and

Florida again? Or, how about '92 Alabama against '62 Alabama or '72 USC or even '24 Notre Dame with the "Four Horsemen". Well...with 3 in 1 Football you can do just that and much, much more!

With 3 in 1 Football you can play any of OVER 800 total teams. Both College & Pro. Virtually every one of the I-A and I-AA teams from 1995 are included as well as the Pro teams from last year.

The WFL, WLAF and USFL teams are also available. Many, many of the greatest College and Pro teams of all time are there, too. '63 Navy, '67 USC, '71 Oklahoma, '45 Army and the list goes on and on.

3 in 1 plays head to head, you vs. computer or computer vs. computer. It has an end of game scoring summary, full team and individual player stat breakdowns. Stats compiler, Standings and League Leaders, you can draft, trade or input your own players and teams from scratch.

As you coach your favorite team to victory you'll be amazed at how realistic your QB's, running backs, receivers and kickers perform!

An extensive auto-scheduler is also included. The entire 1995 college or Pro schedules can be played by hitting a few keystrokes. And if over 800 college and Pro teams still isn't enough, there are many past seasons available.

ADDITIONAL COLLEGE SEASONS DISKS

1956-69, 71, 74, 77, 78, 79, 80, 83-94
Pick any 5 seasons for \$39.95

ORDER TODAY!

Mail check or money order
for **\$39.95** each.

You may call in and order with VISA or Master Card. Please add \$4.00 for shipping and handling.

For more information, call or write
for a free brochure.

1-800-477-7032

© **LANCE HAFFNER GAMES**

P.O. BOX 100594 • NASHVILLE, TN 37224

COLORADO

(continued from page 76)

tight end Matt Lepsis (25 recs., 341 yards) and the Colorado passing game is one of the most versatile and explosive offensive attacks in the nation.

The only questions are about the offensive line, where two All Americas are gone but guard Chris Naeole is an All-America candidate. However, Melvin Thomas started every game last season, while Kyle Smith and Andrew Welsh have also seen enough time for the offensive line to not be considered too much of a liability.

DEFENSE: Two of the keys to Colorado's defensive success, Kerry Hicks and line coach Fred vonAppen, are gone—Hicks to the NFL and vonAppen to the head coaching job at Hawaii. But defensive end Greg Jones (eight sacks, 15 tackles for a loss) could be an All America, and the Buffaloes are loaded with potential successors to Hicks inside, particularly Viliami Maumau.

Colorado is also stacked at linebacker with Matt Russell coming of a spectacular season. He led the team in tackles with 119, including 16 for a loss, and finished fourth in the tallying for the Butkus Award while earning a unanimous All-Big Eight selection. Ron Merkerson and Mike Phillips have both been successful as part-time starters.

And though safety Steve Rosga is coming off an outstanding year (and off-season shoulder

surgery), most of the attention in the secondary will be paid to Dalton Simmons. Simmons seemed destined to continue Colorado's run of Jim Thorpe Award winners (Chris Hudson in 1994, Deon Figures in 1992) before he missed all of last season after suffering torn ligaments and cartilage in his knee during the 1995 Fiesta Bowl. Sophomore cornerback Marcus Washington emerged in the second half of the season and was the Cotton Bowl MVP.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Despite the thin air of Boulder, Andy Mitchell struggled as Colorado's punter last season, and Jeremy Aldrich could take his job. But at least there is some experience at kicker. Jason Lesley has been groomed to be the successor for graduated Neil Voskeritchian. However, Lesley is Colorado's only scholarship kicker.

RECRUITING: After winning the Cotton Bowl, Colorado welcomed itself to the Texas side of the Big 12 with a pair of big-name recruiting coups in Texas. Colorado beat out the Longhorns for Austin native Ryan Nunez, an outstanding wide receiver prospect, and for Dallas defensive line prospect Jesse Warren, a *USA Today* first-team All America. Ian Loper is another top recruit for the defensive line. But the big name belongs to Colorado's lone quarterback signee, Adam Bledsoe, Drew's younger brother, who completed 165 of 326 passes for 2,355 yards and 17 touchdowns during his two years as a starter at run-oriented Yakima (Wash.) Eisenhower. ☺

Jonathan Feigen covers Big 12 football for the Houston (Texas) Chronicle.

FOR MEN ONLY MALE ENLARGEMENT

- * Resolve
Impotence
- * Gain Size
Permanently
and Safely
- * Surgical or
Non Surgical
- * Vacuum Pumps
and Information
- * Electric or
Manual Systems



DR. JOEL KAPLAN
1-312-409-5557

**Free Photographs
and Brochures**

READER SURVEY

Thanks for buying this issue of BOB GRIESE'S COLLEGE FOOTBALL YEARBOOK. We'd like to know how you liked it and learn a little about you. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below and return it to us at: CS Communications, Route 22 East, One Salem Square, Suite 201 East, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889. To thank you, the first 10 respondents will receive a year subscription to *College Sports Magazine*.

READERSHIP

1. How much time have you spent reading or looking through your copy of BOB GRIESE'S COLLEGE FOOTBALL YEARBOOK?

- ☐ Less than 1 hour ☐ 1-3 hours ☐ 3+ hours

2. Approximately how many people, other than yourself, have read or looked through your copy of BOB GRIESE'S COLLEGE FOOTBALL YEARBOOK?

Male _____ Female _____

3. Which of the following preseason sports annuals do you read regularly (3 out of 4 issues/year)? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Street & Smith ☐ The Sporting News ☐ Lindy's
☐ Athlon ☐ Petersen's ☐ None of these

4. Which of the following sports magazines do you read regularly (that is, 3 out of 4 issues)? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ College Sports ☐ The Sporting News ☐ Sport
☐ Inside Sports ☐ Sports Illustrated ☐ None of these

5. Which of the following non-sports magazines do you read regularly (that is, 3 out of 4 issues)? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Business Week ☐ Money ☐ Playboy
☐ Car & Driver ☐ Motor Trend ☐ Road & Track
☐ Consumer Reports ☐ Newsweek ☐ Rolling Stone
☐ Family Life ☐ New Yorker ☐ Time
☐ Men's Health ☐ People ☐ US News
☐ Men's Journal

Other: _____ (please specify)

ACTIVITIES

1a. Which of the following sports do you participate in regularly? (Please check all that apply.)

- ☐ Baseball ☐ Hockey ☐ Basketball
☐ Running/Jogging ☐ Boating/Sailing ☐ Soccer
☐ Cycling ☐ Softball ☐ Mountain biking
☐ Swimming ☐ Football ☐ Tennis
☐ Golf ☐ Walking ☐ Hiking
☐ Hunting ☐ Fishing

Other: _____ (please specify)

1b. Which of the following leisure activities do you participate in regularly? (Please check all that apply.)

- ☐ Attend Movies ☐ Work Out Health Club/Gym ☐ Dancing
☐ Attend Sports Events ☐ Pre-Game/Tailgate parties ☐ Aerobics
☐ Dining Out (not fast food) ☐ Go To Bars/Nightclubs ☐ Outdoor BBQ
☐ Entertain Friends/Relatives ☐ Play Computer games ☐ Play Video Games
☐ None of These

Other: _____ (please specify)

2. Which of the following college and professional games or events do you attend? (Please check all that apply.)

COLLEGE	PRO	# ATTENDED	COLLEGE	PRO	# ATTENDED
Baseball.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Track & Field.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Basketball.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Golf.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Football.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Hockey.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Soccer.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____			

Other: _____ (please specify)

3. During the past 12 months, how many domestic round trip airline flights did you or other members of your household take? (If none, please write in "0")

for business trips
for pleasure trips
Total trips

4a. Do you collect sports trading cards? ☐ Yes ☐ No

4b. "If yes", which sports do you collect?

- ☐ Baseball ☐ Basketball ☐ Football ☐ Hockey

Other: _____ (please specify)

5a. Do you currently have access to the Internet? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5b. "If yes", how often are you on the Internet?

- ☐ Daily ☐ 2-3 times weekly
☐ Once a week ☐ Once a month

Other: _____

5c. "If yes", which Online service providers do you use? _____

6. How do you/other household member use a computer?

- ☐ Use computer at work
☐ Own/use a computer at home for personal use
☐ Own/use a computer at home for business use

Other: _____

YOUR HOME

1. Which of the following best describes the main residence of your household? (Please check all that apply.)

- OWNED BY SELF OR OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBER: ☐ House ☐ RENTED: ☐ House
☐ Condominium ☐ Apartment
☐ Cooperative Apartment ☐ Other: _____
☐ Other: (please specify) _____ (please specify)

2. If you or other household members own your main residence, what is its approximate present market value, including land?

- ☐ Under \$75,000 ☐ \$200,000-\$249,999 ☐ \$500,000-\$749,999
☐ \$75,000-\$99,999 ☐ \$250,000-\$299,999 ☐ \$750,000+
☐ \$100,000-\$124,999 ☐ \$300,000-\$399,999 If \$750,000+, approx.
☐ \$125,000-\$149,999 ☐ \$400,000-\$499,999 value \$ _____
☐ \$150,000-\$199,999

BEVERAGES

1. In column A, please indicate which of the following beverages, if any, you personally drink. In column B, for those beverages you drink, please indicate how many times you drink it in an average month. In column C, for each type of beverage you personally drink, please indicate whether you normally order that beverage by brand when drinking it outside the home. (Check all that apply in each column.)

A	B	C	A	B	C
DRINK	NO. TIMES	ORDER BY BRAND	DRINK	NO. TIMES	ORDER BY BRAND
Soft Drinks	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Rum	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Sports Drinks	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Tequila	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bottled Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Brandy/Cognac	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bourbon	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Cordials/Liqueurs	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Rye Whiskey	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Imported Wine	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Canadian Whiskey	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Domestic Wine	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Irish Whiskey	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Imported Beer	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Scotch	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Domestic Beer	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Vodka	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Non-Alcohol or Low Alcohol Beer	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Gin	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____			
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____			

ABOUT YOU

1. Are you male or female? ☐ Male ☐ Female

2. Please indicate your age.

- ☐ Under 18 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 45-54
☐ 18-24 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 55 or over

3. What is your marital status?

- ☐ Married ☐ Widowed
☐ Single (never married) ☐ Separated or divorced

4. How many members are there in your household within each of the following age groups including yourself? (If none, please write "0.")

NUMBER OF ADULTS (18 years or over) _____

NUMBER OF CHILDREN:

12-17 years old

6-11 years old

Under 6 years old

Total household members: _____

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed to date? (Please check only one.)

- ☐ Some high school or less ☐ Attended 4-yr. college w/o degree
☐ High school graduate ☐ Graduated from 4-yr. college
☐ Attended 2 yr. college w/o degree ☐ Post-graduate study without degree
☐ Graduated from 2-yr. college ☐ Post-graduate study with degree

6. What is your current employment status? (Please check only one.)

- ☐ Self-employed ☐ Employed part-time ☐ Other
☐ Employed full-time ☐ Student

7. If you are currently employed, what is your title or position? (Please be specific, e.g., partner, vice president, office manager, sales manager, salesman, teacher, doctor, lawyer, etc.)

8. Please indicate your 1995 total household income before taxes. Please include all income for all family members and include all sources (salary bonuses, investment income, rents, royalties, etc.)

- ☐ Under \$30,000 ☐ \$60,000-\$69,999 ☐ \$150,000-\$249,999
☐ \$30,000-\$39,999 ☐ \$70,000-\$79,999 ☐ \$250,000-\$499,999
☐ \$40,000-\$49,999 ☐ \$80,000-\$99,999 ☐ \$500,000-\$999,999
☐ \$50,000-\$59,999 ☐ \$100,000-\$149,999 ☐ \$1,000,000 or more

9. In what state do you reside? _____

STATISTICAL LEADERS '95

BASED ON FINAL REGULAR-SEASON TOTALS.

§ - PLAYER RENOUNCED SENIOR ELIGIBILITY AND ENTERED NFL DRAFT.

ALL-PURPOSE YARDS

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	Pos.	G	RUSH	REC.	PR	KR	Yds.*	Yds./G
1. T. DAVIS, Iowa St., Soph.	TB	11	2010	159	0	297	2466	224.18
2. A. VAN DYKE, Nevada, Sr.	WR	11	6	1854	0	583	2443	222.09
3. W. TAIT, Toledo, Jr.	TB	11	1905	183	0	0	2088	189.82
4. E. GEORGE, Ohio St., Sr.	TB	12	1826	399	0	0	2225	185.42
5. A. WILSON, Utah St., Sr.	RB	11	1476	375	0	153	2004	182.18
6. W. OLIVER, New Mexico, Sr.	TB	11	915	228	101	666	1910	173.64
7. C. WALKER, Arkansas St., Jr.	HB	11	1013	411	0	459	1883	171.18
8. L. McELROY, Texas A&M, Jr. S	TB	10	1122	379	0	208	1709	170.90
9. D. AUTRY, Northwestern, Soph.	RB	11	1675	130	0	45	1850	168.18
10. B. HANSFORD, TX Tech, Soph.	TB	11	1374	474	0	0	1848	168.00

* INCLUDES INTERCEPTION RETURN YARDS

RUSHING-YARDS

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	G	CARRIES	YARDS	AVG.	TD	Yds./G
1. T. DAVIS, Iowa St., Soph.	11	345	2010	5.8	15	182.73
2. W. TAIT, Toledo, Jr.	11	357	1905	5.3	20	173.18
3. G. JONES, San Diego St., Jr.	12	305	1842	6.0	23	153.50
4. E. GEORGE, Ohio St., Sr.	12	303	1826	6.0	23	152.17
5. T. BLAKABUTKA, Michigan, Jr. S	12	279	1724	6.2	12	143.67
6. D. AUTRY, Northwestern, Soph.	11	355	1675	4.7	14	152.27
7. D. McCULLOUGH, Miami (Ohio), Sr.	11	321	1627	5.1	14	147.91
8. M. WILLIAMS, Kentucky, Jr. S	11	294	1600	5.4	17	145.45
9. C. TALLEY, Northern Illinois, Jr.	11	285	1540	5.4	7	140.00
10. D. THOMPSON, Oklahoma St., Jr.	12	256	1509	5.9	8	125.75

PASSING-EFFICIENCY

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	G	ATT.-COMP.	PCT.	INT.	YARDS	TD	RATING
1. D. WUERFFEL, Florida, Jr.	11	325-210	64.62	10	3266	35	178.4
2. B. HOYING, Ohio St., Sr.	12	303-192	63.37	11	3023	28	170.4
3. D. McNABB, Syracuse, Fr.	11	207-128	61.84	6	1991	16	162.3
4. M. MAXWELL, Nevada, Sr.	9	409-277	67.73	17	3611	33	160.2
5. M. MILLER, Kansas St., Sr.	11	240-154	64.17	11	2059	22	157.3
6. S. TANEYHILL, South Carolina, Sr.	11	389-261	67.10	9	3094	29	153.9
7. J. ARELLANES, Fresno St., Jr.	9	172-102	59.30	6	1539	13	152.4
8. D. SELLERS, New Mexico, Jr.	10	195-121	62.05	3	1693	11	150.5
9. S. SARKISIAN, Brigham Young, Jr.	11	385-250	64.94	14	3437	20	149.8
10. J. WALLWORK, Wyoming, Jr.	10	271-163	60.15	13	2363	21	149.4

PASSING-YARDS

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	G	ATT.-COMP.	PCT.	INT.	Yds.	TD
1. M. MAXWELL, Nevada, Sr.	9	409-277	67.73	17	3611	33
2. C. LEDBETTER, New Mexico St., Sr.	11	453-259	57.17	20	3501	30
3. S. SARKISIAN, Brigham Young, Jr.	11	385-250	64.94	14	3437	20
4. B. BLANTON, San Diego St., Jr.	12	389-243	62.47	14	3300	23
5. D. WUERFFEL, Florida, Jr.	11	325-210	64.62	10	3266	35
6. C. BATCH, E. Michigan, Jr.	11	421-244	57.96	17	3177	21
7. S. TANEYHILL, South Carolina, Sr.	11	389-261	67.10	9	3094	29
8. B. HOYING, Ohio St., Sr.	12	303-192	63.37	11	3023	28
9. D. KANELL, Florida St., Sr.	11	402-257	63.93	13	2957	32
10. P. MANNING, Tennessee, Soph.	11	380-244	64.21	4	2954	22
11. R. LARUE, Wake Forest, Sr.	11	421-264	62.71	13	2775	17
12. J. DELHOMME, SW Louisiana, Jr.	11	351-190	54.13	10	2761	20
13. P. BARNES, California, Jr.	11	362-197	54.42	11	2685	17
14. R. PHILYAW, NE Louisiana, Jr.	10	320-167	52.19	7	2627	22
15. J. MARTIN, Louisiana Tech, Jr.	11	370-206	55.68	12	2606	24

TOTAL OFFENSE

(NOTE: ALL PLAYERS ARE QUARTERBACKS)

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	G	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL	Yds./G
1. M. MAXWELL, Nevada, Sr.	9	12	3611	3623	402.56
2. C. LEDBETTER, N. Mexico St., Sr.	11	223	3501	3724	338.55
3. S. SARKISIAN, Brigham Young, Jr.	11	-167	3437	3270	297.27
4. C. BATCH, Eastern Michigan, Jr.	11	52	3177	3229	293.55
5. D. WUERFFEL, Florida, Jr.	11	-141	3266	3125	284.09
6. S. TANEYHILL, South Carolina, Sr.	11	-38	3094	3056	277.82
7. B. BLANTON, San Diego St., Jr.	12	24	3300	3324	277.00
8. T. GRAZIANI, Oregon, Jr.	10	238	2491	2729	272.90
9. P. MANNING, Tennessee, Soph.	11	6	2954	2960	269.09
10. M. CRANDELL, East Carolina, Jr.	11	201	2751	2952	268.36
11. D. KANELL, Florida St., Sr.	11	-41	2957	2916	265.09
12. R. PHILYAW, NE Louisiana, Jr.	10	-43	2627	2584	258.40

RECEIVING-RECEPTIONS

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	G	REC.	Yds.	TD	REC./G
1. A. VAN DYKE, Nevada, Sr.	11	129	1854	16	11.73
2. K. ALEXANDER, Utah St., Sr.	11	92	1400	6	8.36
3. (TIE) C. MACKAY, Louisiana Tech, Jr.	11	90	1255	9	8.18
3. (TIE) K. JOHNSON, USC, Sr.	11	90	1218	6	8.18
5. W. BLACKWELL, San Diego St., Soph.	11	86	1207	8	7.82
6. M. HARRIS, Wyoming, Jr.	11	78	1423	14	7.09
7. B. STOKLEY, SW Louisiana, Fr.	11	75	1121	9	6.82
8. J. LEWIS, Maryland, Sr.	10	66	937	3	6.60
9. A. COOPER, Florida St., Jr.	11	71	1002	15	6.45
10. (TIE) J. KENT, Tennessee, Jr.	11	69	1055	9	6.27
10. (TIE) M. BATTAGLIA, Rutgers, Sr.	11	69	894	10	6.27

RECEIVING-YARDS

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	G	REC.	Yds.	TD	Yds./G
1. A. VAN DYKE, Nevada, Sr.	11	129	1854	16	168.55
2. M. HARRIS, Wyoming, Jr.	11	78	1423	14	129.36
3. K. ALEXANDER, Utah St., Sr.	11	92	1400	6	127.27
4. T. GLENN, Ohio St., Jr. S	11	57	1316	17	119.64
5. C. MACKAY, Louisiana Tech, Jr.	11	90	1255	9	114.09
6. K. JOHNSON, USC, Sr.	11	90	1218	6	110.73
7. W. BLACKWELL, San Diego St., Soph.	11	86	1207	8	109.73
8. C. JONES, Fresno St., Sr.	12	71	1171	9	97.58
9. M. HARRISON, Syracuse, Sr.	11	56	1131	8	102.82
10. B. STOKLEY, SW Louisiana, Fr.	11	75	1121	9	101.91

INTERCEPTIONS

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	G	No.	Yds.	TD	INT./G
1. W. SMITH, Louisiana Tech, Jr.	10	8	65	0	.80
2. (TIE) C. CANTY, Kansas St., Soph.	11	8	117	2	.73
2. (TIE) S. ANDREWS, Navy, Soph.	11	8	30	0	.73
4. S. MADISON, Louisville, Jr.	11	7	136	0	.64
5. (TIE) P. ATKINS, Iowa, Soph.	10	6	97	2	.60
5. (TIE) H. LUSK, Utah, Jr.	10	6	40	0	.60
5. (TIE) K. ABRAMS, Syracuse, Jr.	10	6	13	0	.60
8. NINE TIED WITH .55 PER GAME					

SCORING

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	Pos.	G	TD	XP	FG	Pts.	Pts./G
1. E. GEORGE, Ohio St., Sr.	TB	12	24	0	0	144	12.00
2. G. JONES, San Diego St., Jr.	TB	12	23	0	0	138	11.50
3. W. TAIT, Toledo, Jr.	TB	11	20	0	0	120	10.91
4. S. GREENE, Michigan St., Sr.	FB	10	17	2	0	104	10.40
5. B. HANSFORD, Texas Tech, Soph.	TB	11	18	0	0	108	9.82
6. L. McELROY, Texas A&M, Jr. S	TB	10	16	0	0	96	9.60
7. B. MORGAN, Air Force, Jr.	QB	12	19	0	0	114	9.50
8. T. GLENN, Ohio St., Jr. S	FL	11	17	2	0	104	9.45
9. (TIE) S. DAVIS, Auburn, Sr.	RB	11	17	0	0	102	9.27
9. (TIE) M. WILLIAMS, Kentucky, Jr. S	TB	11	17	0	0	102	9.27

PUNTING-AVERAGE

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	G	No.	Yds.	Avg.
1. B. MAYNARD, Ball St., Jr.	11	66	3071	46.53
2. B. GRAGERT, Wyoming, Sr.	11	40	1808	45.20
3. G. IVY, Oklahoma St., Sr.	12	66	2947	44.65
4. C. KESSLER, LSU, Soph.	11	47	2072	44.09
5. S. LISS, Florida St., Jr.	11	49	2153	43.94
6. D. SIMMONS, Kansas, Sr.	11	51	2233	43.78
7. T. PHILLIPS, Rice, Jr.	11	57	2487	43.63
8. J. STONEHOUSE, USC, Sr.	11	44	1918	43.59
9. S. TERRY, Texas A&M, Sr.	11	60	2598	43.30
10. S. CARR, Air Force, Sr.	12	45	1946	43.24

PUNT RETURNS

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	G	No.	Yds.	TD	Avg.
1. J. DYE, Brigham Young, Jr.	11	20	438	2	21.90
2. B. ROBERTSON, Fresno St., Jr.	11	19	346	1	18.21
3. M. HARRISON, Syracuse, Sr.	11	22	369	2	16.77
4. G. MYERS, Colorado St., Sr.	11	35	555	3	15.86
5. P. GUIDRY, UCLA, Jr.	11	24	370	1	15.42
6. R. PETERSON, San Diego St., Sr.	12	22	320	0	14.55
7. K. WATSON, Boston College, Jr.	10	17	245	2	14.41
8. D. JOHNSON, Texas Tech, Soph.	11	15	214	0	14.27

KICKOFF RETURNS

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	G	No.	Yds.	TD	Avg.
1. R. TATE, CINCINNATI, JR.	11	15	515	1	34.33
2. W. OLIVER, NEW MEXICO, SR.	11	21	666	1	31.71
3. D. DUNN, STANFORD, SOPH.	10	19	539	1	28.37
4. S. CLAY, E. MICHIGAN, SR.	11	14	395	1	28.21
5. E. MOSLEY, NOTRE DAME, JR.	11	15	419	0	27.93
6. M. EVANS, STANFORD, SR.	11	16	446	1	27.88
7. S. MASSEY, CENTRAL MICHIGAN, FR.	11	16	434	0	27.13
8. C. BUCKHALTER, SOUTHERN MISS., SR.	9	14	377	0	26.93
9. V. MCKINNEY, NORTH TEXAS, SR.	11	14	373	0	26.64
10. D. MASON, MICHIGAN ST., JR.	11	31	815	1	26.29

FIELD GOALS

NAME, SCHOOL, '95 CLASS	G	FG	FGA	Pct.
1. M. REEDER, TEXAS CHRISTIAN, SOPH.	11	23	25	.920
2. R. GARCIA, VIRGINIA, JR.	12	20	27	.741
3. (TIE) D. PULSIPHER, UTAH, JR.	11	17	22	.773
3. (TIE) R. HAMILTON, MICHIGAN, JR.	12	17	25	.680
5. (TIE) E. ABRAMS, STANFORD, SR.	11	16	18	.889
5. (TIE) E. RICHARDS, CINCINNATI, SOPH.	11	16	24	.667
5. (TIE) B. CONWAY, PENN ST., JR.	11	16	24	.667
5. (TIE) J. HALL, TENNESSEE, FR.	11	16	25	.640
9. J. SAUVE, CLEMSON, SR.	11	15	20	.750
10. SEVEN TIED WITH 14 FGs				

BOWL RESULTS

BOWL	DATE	LOCATION	TEAMS/SCORE	PPT*
LAS VEGAS	DEC. 14	LAS VEGAS, NEV.	TOLEDO 40, NEVADA 37 (OT)	\$175,000
JEFFERSON ALOHA	DEC. 25	HONOLULU, HAWAII	KANSAS 51, UCLA 30	\$800,000
WEISER LOCK COPPER	DEC. 27	TUCSON, ARIZ.	TEXAS TECH 55, AIR FORCE 41	\$750,000
BUILDERS SO. ALAMO	DEC. 28	S. ANTONIO, TEXAS	TEXAS A&M 22, MICHIGAN 20	\$1 MILLION
SUN	DEC. 29	EL PASO, TEXAS	IOWA 38, WASHINGTON 18	\$900,000
POULAN/W.E. INDEP.	DEC. 29	SHREVEPORT, LA.	LSU 45, MICHIGAN ST. 26	\$750,000
PLYMOUTH HOLIDAY	DEC. 29	SAN DIEGO, CALIF.	KANSAS ST. 54, COLORADO ST. 21	\$1.7 MILLION
ST. JUDE LIBERTY	DEC. 30	MEMPHIS, TENN.	EAST CAROLINA 19, STANFORD 13	\$750,000
CARQUEST	DEC. 30	MIAMI, FLA.	NORTH CAROLINA 20, ARKANSAS 10	\$1 MILLION
PEACH	DEC. 30	ATLANTA, GA.	VIRGINIA 34, GEORGIA 27	\$1.13 MILLION
NOKIA SUGAR	DEC. 31	NEW ORLEANS, LA.	VIRGINIA TECH 28, TEXAS 10	\$8.33 MILLION
OUTBACK	JAN. 1	TAMPA, FLA.	PENN STATE 43, AUBURN 14	\$1.5 MILLION
COMPUSA CITRUS	JAN. 1	ORLANDO, FLA.	TENNESSEE 20, OHIO STATE 14	\$3 MILLION
TOYOTA GATOR	JAN. 1	JACKSONVILLE, FLA.	SYRACUSE 41, CLEMSON 0	\$1.3 MILLION
COTTON	JAN. 1	DALLAS, TEXAS	COLORADO 38, OREGON 6	\$2.5 MILLION
ROSE	JAN. 1	PASADENA, CALIF.	USC 41, NORTHWESTERN 32	\$8.2 MILLION
FEDEx ORANGE	JAN. 1	MIAMI, FLA.	FLORIDA ST. 31, NOTRE DAME 26	\$8.33 MILLION
TOSTITOS FIESTA	JAN. 2	TEMPE, ARIZ.	NEBRASKA 62, FLORIDA 24	\$8.58 MILLION

*PAYOUT PER TEAM

OTHER POSTSEASON GAMES

BOWL	DATE	LOCATION	TEAMS/SCORE	ATTN.
KELLY TIRE BLUE-GRAY	DEC. 27	MONTGOMERY, ALA.	BLUE 26, GRAY 7	18,500
HERITAGE (I-AA)	DEC. 29	ATLANTA, GA.	SOUTHERN 30, FLORIDA A&M 25	25,164
EAST-WEST SHRINE	JAN. 13	PALO ALTO, CALIF.	WEST 34, EAST 10	68,500
SENIOR	JAN. 20	MOBILE, ALA.	NORTH 25, SOUTH 10	40,700
HULA	JAN. 21	HONOLULU, HAWAII	EAST 17, WEST 10	25,112

MAJOR COLLEGE FOOTBALL AWARDS-1995

AWARD	WINNER, POS., CLASS, SCHOOL
HEISMAN (OUTSTANDING PLAYER)	EDDIE GEORGE, RB, SR., OHIO ST.
OUTLAND TROPHY (LINEMAN)	JONATHAN OGDEN, OT, SR., UCLA
MAXWELL (OUTSTANDING PLAYER)	EDDIE GEORGE
BUTKUS (LINEBACKER)	KEVIN HARDY, JR., ILLINOIS
JIM THORPE (DEFENSIVE BACK)	GREG MYERS, FS, SR., COLORADO ST.
FRED BILETHIKOFF (WIDE RECEIVER)	TERRY GLENN, JR., OHIO ST.
DAVEY O'BRIEN (QUARTERBACK)	DANNY WUERFFEL, JR., FLORIDA
DOAK WALKER (RUNNING BACK)	EDDIE GEORGE
LOU GROZA (PLACEKICKER)	MICHAEL REEDER, SOPH., TEXAS CHRISTIAN
VINCE LOMBARDI/ROTARY (LINEMAN)	ORLANDO PACE, OT, SOPH., OHIO ST.
WALTER CAMP (RUNNING BACK)	EDDIE GEORGE
CHUCK BEDNARIK (DEFENSIVE PLAYER)	PAT FITZGERALD, LB, JR., NORTHWESTERN
BRONCO NAGURSKI (DEFENSIVE PLAYER)	PAT FITZGERALD
HONDA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE	GREG MYERS
HOME DEPOT COACH OF THE YEAR (I-A)	GARY BARNETT, NORTHWESTERN
WALTER PAYTON (TOP I-AA PLAYER)	DAVE DICKERSON, QB, SR., MONTANA
HARLON HILL (TOP DIV. II PLAYER)	RONALD MCKINNON, LB, SR., NO. ALABAMA
JOHN GAGLIARDI (TOP DIV. III PLAYER)	CHRIS PALMER, WR, SR., ST. JOHN'S (MINN.)
MEL BERGER (TOP DIV. III PLAYER)	CRAIG KUSICK, QB, SR., WIS.-LACROSSE

* IF NECESSARY

FINAL 1995 COLLEGE FOOTBALL POLLS

FIRST PLACE VOTES IN PARENTHESES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEAM	RECORD	PTS.
1. NEBRASKA (62)	12-0	1,550
2. FLORIDA	12-1	1,474
3. TENNESSEE	11-1	1,428
4. FLORIDA STATE	10-2	1,311
5. COLORADO	10-2	1,309
6. OHIO STATE	11-2	1,161
7. KANSAS STATE	10-2	1,147
8. NORTHWESTERN	10-2	1,124
9. KANSAS	10-2	1,029
10. VIRGINIA TECH	10-2	1,015
11. NOTRE DAME	9-3	931
12. SOUTHERN CAL	9-2-1	886
13. PENN STATE	9-3	867
14. TEXAS	10-2-1	724
15. TEXAS A&M	9-3	661
16. VIRGINIA	9-4	603
17. MICHIGAN	9-4	474
18. OREGON	9-3	416
19. SYRACUSE	9-3	382
20. MIAMI (FLA.)	8-3	352
21. ALABAMA	8-3	313
22. AUBURN	8-4	276
23. TEXAS TECH	9-3	197
24. TOLEDO	11-0-1	170
25. IOWA	8-4	133

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES: EAST CAROLINA 111, WASHINGTON 36, LOUISIANA STATE, 33, NORTH CAROLINA 16, CLEMSON 12, ARKANSAS 8.

USA TODAY/CNN

TEAM	RECORD	PTS.
1. NEBRASKA (62)	12-0	1,550
2. TENNESSEE	11-1	1,438
3. FLORIDA	12-1	1,434
4. COLORADO	10-2	1,308
5. FLORIDA STATE	10-2	1,280
6. KANSAS STATE	10-2	1,129
7. NORTHWESTERN	10-2	1,121
8. OHIO STATE	11-2	1,105
9. VIRGINIA TECH	10-2	1,101
10. KANSAS	10-2	994
11. USC	9-2-1	898
12. PENN STATE	9-3	857
13. NOTRE DAME	9-3	813
14. TEXAS	10-2-1	768
15. TEXAS A&M	9-3	703
16. SYRACUSE	9-3	593
17. VIRGINIA	9-4	585
18. OREGON	9-3	441
19. MICHIGAN	9-4	426
20. TEXAS TECH	9-3	329
21. AUBURN	8-4	292
22. IOWA	8-4	205
23. E. CAROLINA	9-3	163
24. TOLEDO	11-0-1	150
25. LOUISIANA ST.	7-4-1	110

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES: NORTH CAROLINA 100, WASHINGTON 98, ARKANSAS 54, CLEMSON 42, UCLA 22, STANFORD 11, COLORADO STATE 9, MICHIGAN STATE 6, FRESNO STATE 5, AIR FORCE 3, BAYLOR 3, LOUISVILLE 3, GEORGIA 1.

NOTE: MIAMI (FLA.) (8-3) AND ALABAMA (8-3) WERE NOT ELIGIBLE BECAUSE OF NCAA SANCTIONS.

FINAL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

ATLANTIC COAST

SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.	OVERALL	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.
FLORIDA STATE	7-1-0	.875	421	154	9-2-0	.818	532	220		
VIRGINIA	7-1-0	.875	242	156	8-4-0	.667	344	243		
CLEMSON	6-2-0	.800	193	133	8-3-0	.727	303	178		
GEORGIA TECH	5-3-0	.625	173	198	6-5-0	.545	260	244		
MARYLAND	4-4-0	.500	150	193	6-5-0	.545	210	251		
NORTH CAROLINA	4-4-0	.500	176	180	6-5-0	.545	264	210		
N.C. STATE	2-6-0	.250	216	297	3-8-0	.273	260	364		
DUKE	1-7-0	.125	226	321	3-8-0	.273	282	386		
WAKE FOREST	0-8-0	.000	129	294	1-10-0	.091	190	360		

BIG EAST

SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.	OVERALL	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.
VIRGINIA TECH	6-1-0	.857	188	83	9-2-0	.818	321	155		
MIAMI (FLA.)	6-1-0	.857	185	112	8-3-0	.727	294	201		
SYRACUSE	5-2-0	.714	211	136	8-3-0	.727	334	213		
WEST VIRGINIA	4-3-0	.571	147	124	5-6-0	.454	253	208		
BOSTON COLLEGE	4-3-0	.571	150	167	4-8-0	.333	207	322		
RUTGERS	2-5-0	.286	184	272	4-7-0	.364	304	409		
TEMPLE	1-6-0	.143	113	189	1-10-0	.090	187	358		
PITTSBURGH	0-7-0	.000	93	194	2-9-0	.181	217	329		

BIG EIGHT

SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.	OVERALL	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.
NEBRASKA	7-0-0	1.000	373	84	11-0-0	1.000	576	150		
COLORADO	5-2-0	.714	226	178	9-2-0	.818	406	234		
KANSAS STATE	5-2-0	.714	234	117	9-2-0	.818	402	145		
KANSAS	5-2-0	.714	186	180	9-2-0	.818	284	231		
OKLAHOMA	2-5-0	.286	96	209	5-5-1	.500	233	275		
OKLAHOMA STATE	2-5-0	.286	143	218	4-8-0	.333	250	345		
MISSOURI	1-6-0	.143	103	224	3-8-0	.273	186	317		
IOWA STATE	1-6-0	.143	151	304	3-8-0	.273	264	409		

BIG TEN

SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.	OVERALL	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.
NORTHWESTERN	8-0-0	1.000	204	89	10-1-0	.909	279	140		
OHIO STATE	7-1-0	.875	294	134	11-1-0	.917	461	200		
MICHIGAN	5-3-0	.625	215	145	9-3-0	.750	328	201		

PENN STATE	5-3-0	.625	207	174	8-3-0	.727	356	245
MICHIGAN STATE	4-3-1	.563	196	215	6-4-1	.591	261	293
IOWA	4-4-0	.500	210	197	7-4-0	.636	330	241
ILLINOIS	3-4-1	.438	147	157	5-5-1	.500	193	198
WISCONSIN	3-4-1	.438	162	186	4-5-2	.455	235	253
PURDUE	2-5-1	.313	193	197	4-6-1	.409	282	269
MINNESOTA	1-7-0	.125	169	327	3-8-0	.273	272	368
INDIANA	0-8-0	.000	98	273	2-9-0	.182	159	326

BIG WEST

CONFERENCE					OVERALL			
SCHOOL	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.
NEVADA	6-0-0	1.000	262	173	9-2-0	.818	484	335
SW LOUISIANA	4-2-0	.667	199	134	6-5-0	.545	351	275
UTAH STATE	4-2-0	.667	191	94	4-7-0	.364	293	284
ARKANSAS STATE	3-3-0	.500	127	134	6-5-0	.545	265	270
NEW MEXICO STATE	3-3-0	.500	222	192	4-7-0	.364	349	389
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	3-3-0	.500	147	184	3-8-0	.273	220	420
LOUISIANA TECH	2-4-0	.333	219	223	5-6-0	.456	320	371
PACIFIC	2-4-0	.333	170	238	3-8-0	.273	240	439
SAN JOSE STATE	2-4-0	.333	172	167	3-8-0	.273	271	378
UNLV	1-5-0	.167	122	292	2-9-0	.182	222	520

MID-AMERICAN

CONFERENCE					OVERALL			
SCHOOL	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.
TOLEDO	7-0-1	.938	236	141	10-0-1	.954	371	227
MIAMI (OHIO)	6-1-1	.813	254	83	8-2-1	.772	326	165
BALL STATE	6-2-0	.750	169	109	7-4-0	.636	204	187
W. MICHIGAN	6-2-0	.750	202	111	7-4-0	.636	253	190
E. MICHIGAN	5-3-0	.625	258	211	6-5-0	.545	363	335
BOWLING GREEN	3-5-0	.375	151	157	5-6-0	.454	226	228
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	2-6-0	.250	151	189	4-7-0	.363	250	275
AKRON	2-6-0	.250	104	260	2-9-0	.181	141	432
OHIO	1-6-1	.188	126	216	2-8-1	.227	161	320
KENT	0-7-1	.063	91	254	1-9-1	.136	128	390

PAC-10

CONFERENCE					OVERALL			
SCHOOL	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.
SOUTHERN CAL	6-1-1	.813	214	130	9-2-1	.792	365	217
WASHINGTON	6-1-1	.813	232	170	7-4-1	.625	312	280
OREGON	6-2-0	.750	214	176	9-3-0	.750	326	272
STANFORD	5-3-0	.625	233	211	7-4-1	.625	344	307
UCLA	4-4-0	.500	209	211	7-5-0	.583	338	300
ARIZONA	4-4-0	.500	139	162	6-5-0	.545	207	199
ARIZONA STATE	4-4-0	.500	206	212	6-5-0	.545	308	330
CALIFORNIA	2-6-0	.250	170	221	3-8-0	.273	243	286
WASHINGTON STATE	2-6-0	.250	164	201	3-8-0	.273	236	274
OREGON STATE	0-8-0	.000	85	177	1-10-0	.091	136	237

SOUTHEASTERN

EASTERN DIVISION					WESTERN DIVISION				
SCHOOL	RECORD	PCT.	OVERALL	PCT.	SCHOOL	RECORD	PCT.	OVERALL	PCT.
*FLORIDA	8-0-0	1.000	12-1-0	.923	ARKANSAS	6-2-0	.750	8-5-0	.615
TENNESSEE	7-1-0	.875	11-1-0	.917	AUBURN	5-3-0	.625	8-4-0	.667
GEORGIA	3-5-0	.375	6-6-0	.500	ALABAMA	5-3-0	.625	8-3-0	.727
So. CAROLINA	2-5-1	.313	4-6-1	.409	LSU	4-3-1	.563	7-4-1	.625
KENTUCKY	2-6-0	.250	4-7-0	.364	MISS. STATE	1-7-0	.125	3-8-0	.273
VANDERBILT	1-7-0	.125	2-9-0	.182	MISSISSIPPI	3-5-0	.375	6-5-0	.545

*DEFEATED ARKANSAS, 34-3, IN SEC CHAMPIONSHIP.

SOUTHWEST

CONFERENCE					OVERALL			
SCHOOL	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.
TEXAS	7-0-0	1.000	238	88	10-1-1	.875	380	227
BAYLOR	5-2-0	.714	177	96	7-4-0	.636	273	166
TEXAS A&M	5-2-0	.714	139	79	8-3-0	.727	301	148
TEXAS TECH	5-2-0	.714	169	146	8-3-0	.727	330	206
TEXAS CHRISTIAN	3-4-0	.429	138	180	6-5-0	.545	217	242
HOUSTON	2-5-0	.286	137	232	2-9-0	.182	188	360
RICE	1-6-0	.143	134	194	2-8-1	.227	215	284
So. METHODIST	0-7-0	.000	103	139	1-10-0	.091	132	352

WESTERN ATHLETIC

CONFERENCE					OVERALL			
SCHOOL	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.	RECORD	PCT.	PTS.	OPP.
*COLORADO STATE	6-2-0	.750	214	131	8-4-0	.667	339	254
BRIGHAM YOUNG	6-2-0	.750	232	191	7-4-0	.636	308	268
UTAH	6-2-0	.750	216	156	7-4-0	.636	296	230
AIR FORCE	6-2-0	.750	272	189	8-5-0	.615	401	358
SAN DIEGO STATE	5-3-0	.625	267	189	8-4-0	.667	401	283
WYOMING	4-4-0	.500	244	184	6-5-0	.545	322	264
FRESNO STATE	2-6-0	.250	229	274	5-7-0	.417	362	384
NEW MEXICO	2-6-0	.250	168	224	4-7-0	.364	256	303
HAWAII	2-6-0	.250	145	295	4-8-0	.333	285	401
TEXAS-EL PASO	1-7-0	.125	164	334	2-10-0	.167	263	486

* COLORADO STATE WON TIEBREAKER TO CLINCH DIVISION TITLE.

1996 TV SCHEDULES

* - regional coverage unless noted (N-national)
All times p.m. and Eastern

ABC

Sat., Aug. 24	Pigskin Classic: Texas A&M at BYU	TBA
Sun., Aug. 25	Kickoff Classic: Penn State vs. USC	TBA
Sat., Aug. 31*	Illinois at Michigan	3:30
	Clemson at N.C.	3:30
	Wash. St. at Colorado	3:30
Sat., Sept. 7*	Texas Tech at Kansas St.	3:30
	Mich. St. at Nebraska	noon
	Duke at Florida St.	noon
	Okla. St. at Texas Tech	noon
	Utah at Stanford	noon
	USC at Illinois	3:30
	Louisville at Penn St.	3:30
	Georgia Tech at N.C. St.	3:30
	TCU at Oklahoma	3:30
Sat., Sept. 14*	Michigan at Colorado	3:30
	BYU at Washington	3:30
	Northwestern at Duke	3:30
	Iowa St. at Iowa	3:30
Sat., Sept. 21*	Notre Dame at Texas (N)	noon
	Boston Coll. at Mich.	3:30
	Arizona at Washington	3:30
	Georgia Tech at N.C.	3:30
	Oklahoma at S.D. St.	3:30
	Oregon at Wash.	4
Sat., Sept. 28*	UCLA at Michigan	TBA
	Penn St. at Wisconsin	TBA
	Colorado at Texas A&M	TBA
	N.C. at Florida St.	TBA
Sat., Oct. 5*	Penn State at Ohio St.	3:30
	Wash. St. at Arizona (or)	3:30
	UCLA at Oregon	3:30
	Virginia at Ga. Tech	3:30
	Nebraska at Kansas St.	3:30
	Wisconsin at Ohio St.	3:30
Sat., Oct. 12*	Arizona St. at UCLA	3:30
	Oklahoma at Texas	3:30
	Alabama at N.C. St.	3:30
Sat., Oct. 19*	Ohio State at Purdue	3:30
	UCLA at Washington	3:30
	Ga. Tech at Clemson	3:30
	Nebraska at Texas Tech	3:30
Sat., Oct. 26*	Ohio State at Iowa (or)	3:30
	Wisconsin at Michigan St.	3:30
	Texas at Colorado	3:30
	Virginia at Florida St.	3:30
	Wash. at Oregon	3:30
Sat., Nov. 2*	Nebraska at Oklahoma	noon
	Michigan St. at Mich.	noon
	Northwestern at Penn St.	3:30
	Baylor at Texas	3:30
	Washington at USC	3:30
	N.C. State at N.C.	3:30
Sat., Nov. 9*	Ohio State at Illinois	3:30
	USC at Stanford	3:30
	Texas A&M at Baylor	3:30
	Clemson at Virginia	3:30
	Tenn. at Memphis	3:30
Sat., Nov. 16*	Penn State at Mich. (N)	noon
	Okla. at Texas A&M	3:30
	Wisconsin at Iowa	3:30
	N.C. at Virginia	3:30
Sat., Nov. 23*	UCLA at Arizona	3:30
	Mich. at Ohio State (N)	TBA
	Mich. St. at Penn State (or)	3:30
	Wisconsin at Illinois	3:30
	USC at UCLA	3:30
	Maryland vs. Florida St.	3:30
	Texas Tech at Okla.	3:30
Fri., Nov. 29	Texas A&M at Texas	11 a.m.
	Colorado at Nebraska	2:30
Sat., Nov. 30	Florida at Florida St.	noon
	Notre Dame at USC	8
Sat., Dec. 7	Big 12 Championship	1
	WAC Championship	4:30
	SEC Championship	8
Sat., Sept. 7	UCLA at Tennessee	8
Sat., Sept. 21	Florida at Tennessee	3:30
Sat., Sept. 28*	Virginia Tech at Syracuse	3:30
	Kentucky at Florida	3:30
Sat., Oct. 5*	TBA (SEC matchup)	3:30
	Boston Coll. at W. Virginia	3:30
Sat., Oct. 12	LSU at Florida	noon

CBS

Sat., Sept. 7	UCLA at Tennessee	8
Sat., Sept. 21	Florida at Tennessee	3:30
Sat., Sept. 28*	Virginia Tech at Syracuse	3:30
	Kentucky at Florida	3:30
Sat., Oct. 5*	TBA (SEC matchup)	3:30
	Boston Coll. at W. Virginia	3:30
Sat., Oct. 12	LSU at Florida	noon

Sat., Oct. 19	Florida St. at Miami (Fla.)	3:30
Sat., Oct. 26	Auburn at Florida	3:30
	Syracuse at Boston Coll.	noon
	Alabama at Tennessee	3:30
Sat., Nov. 2	Notre Dame at Navy#	noon
	Florida at Georgia	3:30
	Syracuse at W. Virginia	3:30
Sat., Nov. 9	Notre Dame at Boston Coll.	3:30
Sat., Nov. 16*	Virginia Tech at Miami (Fla.)	3:30
	TBA (SEC matchup)	3:30
Sat., Nov. 23	Boston Coll. at Miami (Fla.)	noon
	Kentucky at Tennessee	3:30
Fri., Nov. 29*	Virginia at Virginia Tech	2:30
	LSU at Arkansas	2:30
Sat., Nov. 30*	Miami (Fla.) at Syracuse	3:30
	Ga. Tech at Georgia	3:30
Sat., Dec. 7	Army at Navy	3:30
	# at Dublin, Ireland	
Sat., Aug. 31	Purdue at Michigan St.	12:30
	West Virginia at Pitt	7:30
Thu., Sept. 5	Notre Dame at Vanderbilt	8
Sat., Sept. 7	Arizona at Iowa	12:30
Sat., Sept. 12	Miami (Fla.) at Rutgers	8
Sat., Sept. 14	Virginia Tech at B.C.	12:30
	Georgia at S. Carolina	7:30
Thu., Sept. 19	Florida St. at N.C. St.	8
Sat., Sept. 21	Pittsburgh at Ohio St.	12:30
	LSU at Auburn	7:30
Thu., Sept. 26	Maryland at W. Virginia	8
Sat., Sept. 28	TBA (Big Ten matchup)	12:30
	Texas at Virginia	7:30
Thu., Oct. 3	Tennessee at Ole Miss	7:30*
Sat., Oct. 5	Clemson at Florida State	7
Sat., Oct. 12	TBA (Big Ten matchup)	12:30
	Tennessee at Georgia	7
Sat., Oct. 19	TBA	TBA
Sat., Oct. 26	TBA	TBA
Thu., Oct. 31	Boston Coll. at Pitt.	8
Sat., Nov. 2	TBA	TBA
Thu., Nov. 7	Wyoming at San Diego St.	8
Sat., Nov. 9	TBA	TBA
Thu., Nov. 14	Ga. Tech at Maryland	8
Sat., Nov. 16	TBA	TBA
Thu., Nov. 21	Texas Christian at SMU	8
Sat., Nov. 23	Auburn at Alabama	7:30
Thu., Nov. 28	TBA (Thanksgiving Day)	8
Sat., Nov. 30	E. Carolina at N.C. State	TBA
Sat., Dec. 14	Division III Championship	2
Thu., Dec. 19	Las Vegas Bowl	9
Sat., Dec. 21	Division I-AA Championship	2
Thu., Dec. 26	Haka Bowl	8#
Fri., Dec. 27	Copper Bowl	9
Sat., Dec. 28	Peach Bowl	8
Sun., Dec. 29	Builders Square Alamo Bowl	8
Mon., Dec. 30	Plymouth Holiday Bowl	8
Tue., Dec. 31	Poulan/W.E. Indep. Bowl	4
Wed., Jan. 1	Outback Bowl	11 a.m.
Sat., Jan. 11	Buick East-West Shrine	4
Sun., Jan. 19	Hooters Hula Bowl	8
	* at Memphis, Tenn.	
	# at Auckland, New Zealand; Pitts 3rd-place Pac-10 team vs. at-large team	
	NOTE: ESPN will broadcast as many as 36 regular-season games. Please check local listings for updates. ESPN will also broadcast the St. Jude Liberty and Jim Walter Homes Heritage bowls, but dates and times were unavailable as of press time.	
Sat., Aug. 31	BC at Hawaii	TBA
	Louisville at Kentucky	TBA
Sept. 7	N.C. at Syracuse	TBA
	Colorado at Colo. St.	TBA
Oct. 10	So. Miss. at E. Carolina	TBA
	NOTE: ESPN2 will include as many as 37 regular season games, as well as the Division II championship game at 1 p.m. on Dec. 14. Please check local listings for updates.	
Sat., Sept. 14	Purdue at Notre Dame	1:30
Sept. 28	Ohio State at Notre Dame	2:30
Oct. 12	Washington at Notre Dame	2:30
Oct. 19	Air Force at Notre Dame	2:30
Nov. 16	Pittsburgh at Notre Dame	1:30
Nov. 23	Rutgers at Notre Dame	12:30
	All games subject to change.	

ESPN2

Aug. 31	BC at Hawaii	TBA
	Louisville at Kentucky	TBA
Sept. 7	N.C. at Syracuse	TBA
	Colorado at Colo. St.	TBA
Oct. 10	So. Miss. at E. Carolina	TBA

NOTE: ESPN2 will include as many as 37 regular season games, as well as the Division II championship game at 1 p.m. on Dec. 14. Please check local listings for updates.

NBC
(All games on Saturdays)

Sept. 14	Purdue at Notre Dame	1:30
Sept. 28	Ohio State at Notre Dame	2:30
Oct. 12	Washington at Notre Dame	2:30
Oct. 19	Air Force at Notre Dame	2:30
Nov. 16	Pittsburgh at Notre Dame	1:30
Nov. 23	Rutgers at Notre Dame	12:30

All games subject to change.

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

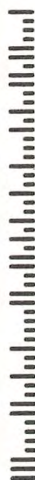
BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 109 DANBURY, CT

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

COLLEGE SPORTS

PO BOX 1982
DANBURY CT 06813-9823



DETACH AND MAIL TODAY

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

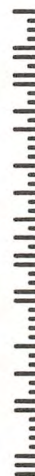
BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 109 DANBURY, CT

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

COLLEGE SPORTS

PO BOX 1982
DANBURY CT 06813-9823



COLLEGE SPORTS MAGAZINE

gives you
**the MOST
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
COVERAGE
ANYWHERE!**

1996
NFL DRAFT
PREVIEW

Did Leaving Las Vegas Help KEBU STEWART?

COLLEGE SPORTS

**NFL
DRAFT
PREVIEW '96**

OUR EXPERTS
TAKE YOU INSIDE
THE DRAFT:

- RATING THE FUTURE STARS
- TEAM-BY-TEAM NEEDS LIST
- THE IMPACT PLAYERS
- 19 SLEEPERS TO WATCH

PLUS profiles on:
USC's Keyshawn Johnson
UCLA's Lawyer Milloy
Col

Send For
Your **FREE**
Trial Issue
Today!



KEYSHAWN
JOHNSON
USC

JONATHAN OGDEN UCLA

LAWYER MILLOY Washington

MAY 1996 \$2.99

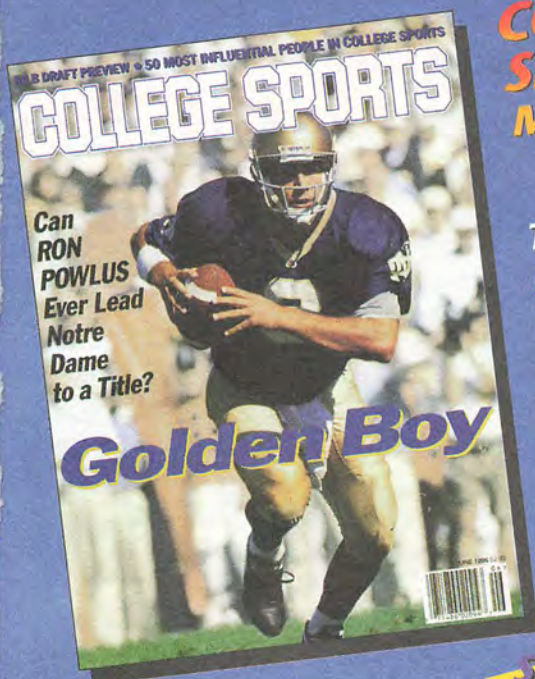


DOUBLE GUARANTEE!

1 Try a free trial issue with
no obligation to buy.

2 If you decide to continue
receiving *College Sports*
you may request a refund
any time for the balance
of your subscription
— no questions asked!

Hey Fans!
Try a **FREE ISSUE** of



**COLLEGE
SPORTS
MAGAZINE!**

The **ONLY**
MAGAZINE
that's
NOTHING BUT
COLLEGE
SPORTS!

Send For
Your **FREE**
Trial Issue
Now!

SAVE
66%
Only 99¢
a copy!

- ★ Get the inside story on **FOOTBALL ... BASKETBALL ... BASEBALL ... HOCKEY ... and more!**
- ★ Meet **THE GREAT PLAYERS ... THE TOP COACHES ... THE HOT RECRUITS!**
- ★ Get in-depth **PRE-SEASON PREVIEWS** with **STATS ... RANKINGS ... PREDICTIONS ... and PROFILES OF ALL THE TOP TEAMS.**
- ★ Track the issues with **College Sports Magazine's EXCLUSIVE SURVEYS, POLLS and INTERVIEWS.**
- ★ Keep tabs on the **HOTTEST BLUE CHIPPERS** with the **NATION'S BEST RECRUITING NEWS!**
- ★ Get the lowdown on **ALL THE CONFERENCES** in **ALL THE DIVISIONS!**

**COLLEGE
SPORTS**

**FREE ISSUE
REQUEST FORM**



Sign me up!

Send me the next 12 issues (one full year) of *College Sports* for only \$11.97, saving me 66% off the \$35.88 newsstand price! If I decide not to continue, I'll write "cancel" on your bill, return it and owe nothing. The free trial is mine to keep.

☐ Payment Enclosed.

☐ Bill me.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
COLLEGE SPORTS

**NO RISK!
GUARANTEE!**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please allow 3 to 6 weeks for shipment of your first issue.

J6GLXCF3

DETACH AND MAIL TODAY

**COLLEGE
SPORTS**

**FREE ISSUE
REQUEST FORM**



Sign me up!

Send me the next 12 issues (one full year) of *College Sports* for only \$11.97, saving me 66% off the \$35.88 newsstand price! If I decide not to continue, I'll write "cancel" on your bill, return it and owe nothing. The free trial is mine to keep.

☐ Payment Enclosed.

☐ Bill me.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
COLLEGE SPORTS

**NO RISK!
GUARANTEE!**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please allow 3 to 6 weeks for shipment of your first issue.

J6GLXCF3

THE HOTTEST SPORTS YEARBOOKS EVER!

SAVE
33%⁰⁰



YEARBOOK SAVINGS CERTIFICATE

- ☐ YES! Send me all 5 of your Yearbooks -- a \$29.95 newsstand value - for just \$19.95 plus \$5.00 for postage and handling. Payment is enclosed or charge my credit card as indicated.
- ☐ My payment of \$24.95 is enclosed. Make checks payable to; CS Communications

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CHARGE MY: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS BGYR

CARD# _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE, FOR CREDIT CARD ORDERS X _____



SUBSCRIBE
AND SAVE
33%⁰⁰



**AMERICA'S
SPORTS
YEARBOOKS**



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL

PERMIT NO. 109

DANBURY, CT

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

THE ALL-STAR LINEUP

P.O. BOX 1982

DANBURY CT 06813-9822



**THE HOTTEST
SPORTS
YEARBOOKS
EVER!**



*You always read the sports
section first.
Then you read it again.*

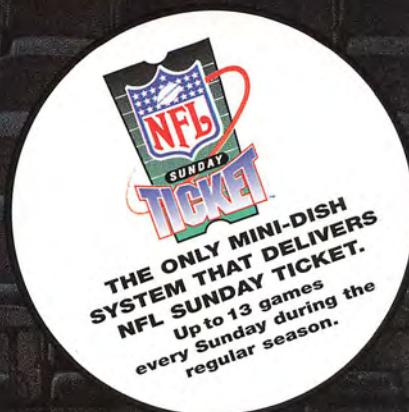
*You know every stat and
every college of every player
in every league.*

*You considered naming your
kid Mickey.*

*Your heart warms
when you hear the words
"frozen tundra."*

*You spent your honeymoon
at a sports fantasy camp.*

Welcome home



No one has more major sports coverage than DIRECTV.

With an 18" DSS® dish and DIRECTV®, you can get hundreds more NBA, NFL, MLB and NHL games than you can get with cable or that mid-sized dish. With DIRECTV sports packages you can follow your favorite out-of-town pro team and catch the action of your favorite college teams (blackout restrictions apply). All with digital picture and sound. DIRECTV. America's premiere sports programming service.

.....➔ **For more information call 1-800-DIRECTV**

Visit us on the World Wide Web at <http://www.directv.com> Blackout restrictions apply. Sports programming requires a continuous landline phone connection to DSS receiver and is available only with a DIRECTV subscription. Some sports programming available for residential viewing only. Commercial signal theft is subject to civil and criminal penalties. Hardware and programming sold separately. Equipment specifications may vary in Alaska. NFL SUNDAY TICKET is a trademark of the National Football League and is available in commercial locations with an appropriate license agreement. ©1996 DIRECTV, Inc. DIRECTV, DSS and "DIRECTV. Satellite TV At Its Best." are official trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc., a unit of Hughes Electronics Corporation.



DIRECTV.

SATELLITE TV AT ITS BEST



OUR GRASS IS GREENER. OUR COLORS ARE FINER. OUR DIGITAL COLOR COPIERS ARE FASTER.



Stand out from the rest of the field. Get an affordable Ricoh digital color copier. The world's smallest toner particles deliver the finest color presentations ever. Faster than ever. The fastest first copy as well as the most copies per minute in this price range. And computer connectable. All in one full line. This means unprecedented performance and productivity. So be bolder. Get more attention. Call us at 1-800-63-RICOH.

© 1995 Ricoh Corporation

THE NAME TO KNOW
RICOH